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COMFORT

THE KEY TO A MILLION AND A QUARTER HOMES

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BOSTON

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ering is an expression of moral and intellectual strength. Powerful passions are denoted, but the battle had gone against them.

He glanced through a number of letters without a change of expression, then as he laid down a smile played about his mouth. Acting upon our privilege we will read it:

DEAR GOVERNOR.

Being unable at this time to see you in person, I send you a few lines instead, which, as a friend, I hope you will heed. In my travels about the State I find the opinion prevailing that you intend to include in your usual batch of Christmas pardons, young Jeter. Now, I am reliably informed—by such men as Kings-on, Buzbee, Connolly and Frazier—that if you do this you will sign your own death-warrant, politically, not only for re-election as Governor, but for the United States Senate later. Public sentiment is in favor of the execution of the sentence in Jeter's case; and no man with political aspirations can afford to disregard the wishes of a majority of his constituents—right or wrong. But from a moral standpoint, 'Vox populi, vox Dei' you know. With best wishes, I am,

Yours for victory,
L. C. A."

Having gone through the mail, the Governor called his secretary and gave him dictation. Then, while waiting for the letters he drew up several pardons, among them Jeter's. He had just finished when the Secretary came in.

"The 11.00 o'clock mail, sir," he said, placing some letters on the desk.

"All right, Martin," replied the Governor, drawing them toward him. One, marked "Personal," which the secretary had not opened, he read last. As he proceeded his brow darkened and his lips were compressed. Finally he rose and strode quickly back and forth. Pausing at last he re-read the letter; then stepped to the desk, picked up Jeter's pardon and tearing it in pieces threw it into the waste-basket. At this moment the secretary entered, note-book in hand.

"I can't make this word out, sir. Please—" As his eyes rested on the Governor's face the words died on his lips. He had never seen such an expression there before, and the voice and manner were equally strange as, with a wave of his hand toward the door, the Governor said:

"When I want you, Mr. Martin, I will call you."

"Bless my soul! what has happened?" gasped the secretary as, closing the door hastily behind him, he dropped into a chair.

Let us see what it was that had so disturbed this usually even-tempered man. This was what he read:

"MY DEAR 'JED':

It is altogether unnecessary for me to tell you at this late day of my love and admiration for you. Since the days when we were little lads together, when you fought my battles for me, your interests, your joys and your sorrows have been mine. They were so in the old days, they are so still; and it is because of this that I write you. Few, if any, remember all the persecutions, great and petty, which were heaped upon you, which at last drove you from your native State and would have followed you if it had been possible—persecutions rendered possible even in our land by the power which money affords the unscrupulous and cruel. Listen, while I refresh your memory—though if it requires refreshing you are more or less than human. Do you remember a poor boy who years ago lost a prize at school, it being awarded by favor to the son of a man of wealth? Do you recall how, a few years later, this same boy, grown to young manhood, lost a much-coveted government appointment because of the counter-influence of this rich man? Later still, do you remember how hard he fought it even to gain admission to the bar because of this man's opposition? And yet later, do you remember how those two, father and son, who had caused you to be defrauded of the little prize at school, contrived to wrest from you the prize of your life, the woman you loved and who loved you? (As I said at the time, and subsequent events proved, not so much because the son loved her as because they both hated you.) They hated you with a deadly hatred, because they had injured you without cause, and swore to drive you into the penitentiary, the poorhouse, or the grave. The father, you know, is dead, but the son lives. You know how, after a few years, he drove his wife, by his brutal treatment of her, into a convent, but perhaps you have not heard that sometime since he drove her son, their only child, from home. If the patient, gentle woman was unable to endure his cruel treatment, how much less the young man, who is a chip of the old and older blocks.

"Now, do you remember the unfinished oath you swore, through white lips, on the day when, a crushed and broken man, you turned your back upon all that earth held dear—'A day of reckoning will come, and then!'—It has come! It is within your power to pay a portion of this heavy reckoning! It will not be revenge, but retribution. You have in your hands a murderer convicted under the name of Thomas Jeter. His real name is William Belden, Jr. He has been convicted and I believe it was a just verdict, for he is his father's son; he is an Ishmaelite. This is the only debt I believe you have never paid. I appeal now to the chum of my boyhood who, as vanquished, never was known to yield; not to him whose eyes, as victor, I have seen fill with tears at the cry for mercy. In justice to the public and to yourself, allow the law to take its course.

Faithfully yours,
TONY."

In the afternoon mail was a small package for the Governor also marked "personal." As he removed the last wrapper there looked into his eyes the pictured eyes of a woman. The face portrayed there was one of rare loveliness, and as he gazed he caught his breath with a half sob. Once he made a movement as though to press it to his lips, but restrained himself, and placing it tenderly upon the desk took up and read the lines which accompanied it:

"For My Friend (the Governor):

"When we parted, you returned the enclosed picture to me and said, 'If I can ever

serve you in any way, were it to the laying down of my life, let me know, and if it is in my power it shall be done.' The occasion has been long in presenting itself, but it has come at last. Lest you should have forgotten, not only the promise but she to whom it was made, I send the miniature as a reminder. Unless the nature I knew has been sadly warped, you will harken to my plea. Spare the prisoner called Thomas Jeter, convicted of murder! He is my son, my only child! I remember him as a little prattler. They tell me his guilt has not been conclusively proven; I believe him innocent. He has had much to make him bad, but I do not believe he is as bad as this. Do not think to strike the father through the son (if such a thing were possible with you) for believe me you would be the greater sufferer. Revenge is sweet to ignoble, not to noble natures. As a Sister I am dead to the world; as a mother my heart bleeds, and so I sign myself,

"A MOTHER."

Again as in the morning the Governor paced back and forth in great agitation. "I could forgive the brute his treatment of me," he muttered, "but his abuse to her! O, it is hard! hard! to ask this of me! I am only an ordinary mortal man! I would rejoice to know he suffered one-tenth the agony he has brought upon others."

He sank into a chair, dropped his arms and his frame shook. When at last he lifted his face the hard look which had been there since morning was gone.

Martin noticed this with a feeling of relief when he came in some minutes later and was handed Jeter's pardon, with instructions to attend to it at once.

"And I must beg your pardon for speaking to you as I did this morning, Martin," he added. "I was greatly worried and forgot myself."

He put his overcoat and hat on and went out into the dusk. As he passed a church childish voices, practicing their Christmas music, floated out to him, singing, "Peace on earth, good will toward men", and the Governor prayed for the heart of a little child.

Late the following night, as the Governor sat with the miniature in his hand and a far-away look in his eyes, there came a knock at his door. He opened it to receive a summons to the bedside of a man who had been fatally wounded in a Christmas Eve brawl. The fellow, well known in police circles, had expressed a wish to see the Governor (who had once pardoned him) as being "The d—dest best man I ever come across!" Before dying he confessed, among other crimes, that he had killed the man for whose murder Jeter had been condemned, and subsequent investigation proved the truth of his statement.

As we have taken the liberty of reading letters received by the Governor, we will now read the concluding sentence of a letter which he wrote the day after Christmas: "It has been the happiest Christmas I have known since you told me so long ago (was it in another life?) that you loved me."

THE THROW OF A ROPE.

WRITTEN FOR COMFORT BY OSCAR S. SEAVER.

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HUCK time at the Conry ranch is always a season of rare recreation to the saddle-sore traveler, not only for the well appointed board but also the evening smoke talk on the ranch house verandah, over which Conry, who has the name in the Madison Valley of breeding the finest road horses shipped east, presides something after the fashion of old King Arthur over his Round Table. Horns and hoofs make the theme of the talk and no occasion has yet lacked a pointed story from the veteran stockman's wild life of hill and plain.

Upon one singing summer evening when the glowing ends of a dozen cigars were but a trifle more fiery than the red canopy the setting sun had cast over the valley, an aspirant in the art of rope-throwing was hot on the trail of how to lasso a hitching post some yards away. He was bearing hardly the bantering and jesting of the dozen onlookers when Conry, heretofore strangely silent, came to his relief. With a quiet word or two he actually had the boy swinging his rope in so apt a way that shortly he sent it curling snakily around the coveted post.

"Like an old han' that last," declared the old man, and then turning to his audience he said: "I laughed at Bob Ford when he begun throwing a rope and I haven't got over that jolt yet."

Almost every yellow cigar end could bow recognition to the name Bob Ford. He had come into the Rocky Mountain country single handed and by grit had won his way. But while the story that was now brewing had been

WONDERFUL CURES BY SWAMP-ROOT.

To Prove What this Famous New Discovery will do for YOU, Every Reader of Comfort May Have a Sample Bottle Sent Absolutely Free by Mail.

Among the many famous cures of Swamp-Root investigated by "COMFORT," none seem to speak higher of the wonderful curative properties of this great kidney remedy than the one we publish this month for the benefit of our readers.

KANSAS CITY, MO., Nov. 30, '99.

DEAR SIR:—"During three years I was frequently attacked with severe spells of sickness; many of these sick spells kept me in bed, dangerously ill, from three weeks to three months, under the constant care of the best physicians in Kansas City.

The doctors pronounced my case gall stones, and said I could not live without a surgical operation, to which I would never consent. In May, 1898, I had the most severe attack; then the doctors said I could not live. It was during this illness that a friend suggested I try Dr. Kilmer's Swamp-Root. I began to take Swamp-Root regularly, and when I had taken only three fifty-cent bottles I began to feel fine and was able to do more housework than I had done in four years. Continuing the use of Swamp-Root, it has made a new woman of me. I have only had one slight attack since I began to take Swamp-Root, and that was caused by being drenched with rain and catching cold. This stomach trouble has bothered me for about twenty years and had become chronic. I am now 44 years of age and feel much younger than I did ten years ago. My friends say I am looking younger every day. Five years ago I only weighed 104 pounds; I now weigh 185 pounds and can do more housework than ever before in my life. I freely give this testimonial for the benefit of those who have suffered as I have."

MRS. M. E. DALLAM, Proprietress of Criswell House, 211 W. 5th St., Kansas City, Mo.

Swamp-Root will do just as much for any

How to Find Out If You Need Swamp-Root.

It used to be considered that only urinary and bladder troubles were to be traced to the kidneys but now modern science proves that nearly all diseases have their beginning in the disorder of these most important organs.

The kidneys filter and purify the blood—that is their work. So when your kidneys are weak or out of order, you can understand how quickly your entire body is affected, and how every organ seems to fail to do its duty.

If you are sick or "feel badly," begin taking the famous new discovery, Dr. Kilmer's Swamp-Root, because as soon as your kidneys are well they will help all the other organs to health. A trial will convince any one.

Many women suffer untold misery because the nature of their disease is not correctly understood. They are led to believe that womb trouble or female weakness of some sort is responsible for the many ills that beset womanhood.

Neuralgia, nervousness, headache, puffy or dark circles under the eyes, rheumatism, a dragging pain or dull ache in the back, weakness or bearing down sensation, profuse or scanty supply of urine, with strong odor, frequent desire to pass it night or day, with scalding or burning sensation,—these are all unmistakable signs of kidney and bladder trouble.

If there is any doubt in your mind as to your condition, take from your urine on rising about four ounces, place it in a glass or bottle and let it stand twenty-four hours. If on examination it is milky or cloudy, if there is a brick-dust settling, or if small particles float about in it, your kidneys are in need of immediate attention.

Other symptoms showing that you need Swamp-Root are sleeplessness, dizziness, irregular heart, breathlessness, sallow, unhealthy complexion, plenty of ambition but no strength.

Swamp-Root is pleasant to take and used in the leading hospitals, recommended by physicians in their private practice, and is taken by doctors themselves, because they recognize in it the greatest and most successful remedy that science has ever been able to compound.

If you are already convinced that Swamp-Root is what you need, you can purchase the regular fifty-cent and one-dollar size bottles at the drug stores everywhere.

EDITORIAL NOTICE—Swamp-Root, the great Kidney, Liver and Bladder remedy, is so remarkably successful that a special arrangement has been made by which all of our readers who have not already tried it may have a sample bottle sent absolutely free by mail. Also a book telling all about kidney and bladder troubles and containing many of the thousands upon thousands of testimonial letters received from men and women cured by Swamp-Root. Be sure and mention reading this generous offer in "COMFORT" when sending your address to Dr. Kilmer & Co., Binghamton, N. Y.

hinted by the Mexican foreman, Romero, no word of it had come from "the old man."

"Bob was crazy over that game," began Conry, "but he made a pretty onery mess of it. I laughed at him till I went clean off my feed seeing him try to handle a rope. After the first off he didn't perform where I could coral him, for he didn't like to be driv', and I figured he'd quit, but right there, boys, I'd clean missed the trail.

"It was old man Romero's work. Been laughing in his sleeve for some time I cal'ate. He likes to get a cinch on me and then stan' off and see how I take it. But I've had that old greaser a kickin' and a squealin' like a green cayuse so I cal'ate I don't owe him anythin'.

"Romero took a liking to Bob more particularly after I got to cussing him fer a tenderfoot. I seed he was gritty an' liked him. He warnt halter broke, that's all. He could ride like a Injun horse thief and learned to ride in a herd like an old han'. Liked his business? Bob took just as much fun cutting out a 'maverick' as he did picking at a mandolin he had and singing greaser songs to it. I seed there wasn't anythin' the boys wouldn't do for Bob, but old man Romero I cal'ate was showing him tricks about a rope that I didn't see.

"Romero can throw a rope just about as close as he can shoot and he wins all his baccy and spirits beating the boys shooting through knotholes in rail fences. Furthermore he can break horses better than any man I ever seed; and that's from the Rio Grande to Oregon; but what I didn't know was that he could break tenderfoots.

"Well that's what he did for Bob Ford, as near as I can figure, and the next summer when I took Sally and her mammy pleasuring to the 'Park', a little incident occurred where I had to own to Bob, if ever a man did, that he had me in a ditch fer fair."

Sally was a queen of the hill country. She was a fine, strong tomboy of a girl the summer Conry mentioned, and ruled unrelentingly all in her domain. She not only rode as well as many of her minions, the cowboys, but was a dead shot and when on roping bent no colt or calf was free to go its way. Sally's mother was

housewife whose back is too weak to perform her necessary work, who is always tired and overwrought, who feels that the cares of life



are more than she can stand. It is a boon to the weak and ailing.

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a Spanish beauty for whom Conry had risked his life in a duel, but Conry often declared "Sally out-pinted her mother."

Sally had tried her rope on Bob Ford once for fun to the end of almost choking him, but he had laughed and had been overheard to say to her deferentially, that it was no use roping him again for she had done that the very first day he saw her. For many days after Bob had been ignored by the annoyed queen, but as the owners of the glowing cigar ends knew that Bob Ford had gone along with the party to the Yellowstone Park, it was of course unnecessary to tell them all this now.

"You know those scrawny, wild eyed old cows," continued Conry, "all bunches and bones and gettin' poor watching fer a chance to do you dirty? You just put the blame of nine out of ten stampedes to them fer the're vicious. I had a pony cut up bad by one of them once, and say boys, if a smart little cow pony can't get away from danger, what chance would you have on foot? I cal'ate you fare better in the loving embrace of a 'roach back' grizzly.

"To say the least, the disposition of this particular element of a herd ain't much to brag of, and up on the Ruby, which is a pretty rough country and poor as dirt can be they are about to the limit. You see they starve all winter; the're just gettin' on in the spring when the sun dries up the feed and they begin to starve again. That don't put beef on them and it puts blood in their eyes, especially the old cows with weaning calves.

"It was with one of these wild-eyed critters, when we were hitting the trail over the Rubies, that my gal Sally got into a tangle, and it was Bob Ford who proceeded to do the necessary untangling in a way that almost gave me the blind staggers.

"When we started I noticed Bob wore his rope on the horn of his saddle.

"What are you going to do with that," I asked, p'inting.

"Mend harness I cal'ate," he said grinning.

"Well, the occasion came quick enough when he showed me what he could do with it.

"It was coming right on the stock range, up between the sage and the timber, and I left

Sally to follow pretty far out while I give my pony the rowells for to hold up the wagon which I seed had just forded a creek. I didn't like to leave her, yet she was well mounted on Ben and I seed no harm. But when Bob yelled to me while we were hobbling the horses for the night, 'Ben's struck a badger hole out there and Sally's off,' I seed danger. There's danger out of the saddle when there ain't any in it, especially among cattle. Sally was too good a rider to be thrown. So I knew Ben was done for.

"Bob was in his saddle and yelling. His little roan was kicking territory from under him and my little mare was doing her best to dispose of an equal amount. When I got the lay of the land my hair riz under my hat. Black feet and cut throats on the northern trail were just men but this was one of those scrawny wild eyed old cows a chargin' down on Sally.

"She saw her danger, gave one scream that cut me like a knife, and ran. Bob and I aimed at getting between and heading the cussed thing off.

"That was a hard run; the hardest in my life and Bob's too I cal'ate, and when we got to close quarters I seed we warn't going to make it. One minute I thought Bob had a chance but the next I seed him miss headin' off and swing his pony in for the long chase. I came behind cussing my luck for leaving my gun at the wagon and cutting up my pony bad.

"It was just a few minutes boys, but it seemed like an hour of hell. There was Sally running like a colt and that she devil plunging after doing her most to kill her. There was Bob close to his pony's neck and the pony racing like mad. Bob was pulling the beast down all right but pretty soon Sally begun staggering. Bob was cool. There was something in the way he rode that showed he hadn't given up by a long shot.

"Then just as I expected to see Sally mangled and bleedin' I seed Bob reach for his rope and fix it fer a throw. Well I went clean sick at that chance, but I didn't have a very long spell, fer I seed Bob swing cool and steady, leaning forward and urgin' on his pony. Then he made his throw and at the same time Sally fell. I just friz in my saddle. I heard the whistle and seed coil after coil straighten out till only the last loop and noose was left. Then I knew Bob's throw was true. That last loop and noose dropped like a snake, and none too soon, clean and square over the two horns and whipped up taut. Bob's pony bunched all right and when the tug came that bloody wild-cow was ripped up on her hind legs and sent rolling on her back with a twist and a bang that would have killed good stock.

"Sally was cryin' and pretty weak when I got her to camp but her mammy said she would come round in a spell, so I struck back to where Bob was having the prettiest fight with a rope that I've seed in some time. Hooves and seshro were rattling for a spell like dice shaken in a dice box. I watched long enough to feel pretty sick over the way I'd laughed at him about throwing a rope, and then I took a hand. I had my gun along that time and the proceedings were short and to the point.

"What did you do that fer?" asked Bob disapp'inted like.

"'Becuz' says I, 'It's the only thing you can't do with that rope of yours.'

"Bob flushed up at that and begun on a cigarette. "Bob says to-day it was great luck, but I've seed him make as good throws since and every time if old man Romero was there he'd sort of grin and look my way. I cal'ate the old greaser tried to get a cinch on me—well boys I cal'ate he did."

Once launched, Conry could not forbear telling the sequel of the little episode which had so narrowly missed being a tragedy. Sally could not tell how thankful she was to the man who saved her life by the miraculous throw of a rope. Bob repeated that he had been roped hard and fast the very first day he had seen 'Miss Sally,' and that was the secret of it all. Ropes got to whistling so in this sort of repartee, Conry says, "that it wasn't long before the coils got snarled and the two young people had to come to him with it. But it warn't no tangle at all!" concluded the old stockman, his bronze face wrinkling in a smile, "just a true lovers knot, and say boys, that's tougher than a diamond hitch any day. So I simply let it alone."

THE TABLES TURNED.

WRITTEN FOR COMFORT BY MARY R. P. HATCH.

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with seeming negligence:

"Yes—no—not exactly, but I would like five dollars."

"Five dollars! May I ask what you want to do with five dollars?"

"Oh, lots of things," she answered, negligently.

"Ethel, did you know that money is very hard just now?"

"I suppose it must be."

"I am sure I have not wasted five dollars in as many years," he said.

"I simply need it, Robert. I am wearing my best shoes when a pair of house slippers would save them. I want—well, here is a list of things that are absolutely essential," and she handed her husband a slip of paper on which were noted the following articles, with probable prices:

Slippers,	\$2.50
Ribbon,	1.00
Postage and stationery,	1.00
Lace, cambric, etc.,	1.00
Total,	\$5.50

"I thought you said five dollars."

"I did. I could get along with that."

"Could you not get along without all except the slippers, for instance?"

"Possibly."

Mrs. Clyde's voice was congealing, still her husband ventured on another question.

"Why has not this demand occurred before?"

"Simply because I have earned the money for such things myself, hitherto, but Dr. Alston tells me that making button-holes is bad for me and advises me to give it up." As a look of concern overspread her husband's countenance she hastened to say, "It is nothing serious, Robert."

"But why did you do this unnecessary work, Ethel? I did not know it."

"I hated to ask you for money. Before I was married I had a stated salary as teacher. It was hard to return to the position of a dependent—to ask for money and have it doled out to me as if I were a child."

"Well, don't feel that way, Ethel. I don't like to have you. All that I have is yours you know. *'With all my worldly goods I thee endow,'* he quoted softly, bending over his wife and kissing her with new tenderness. Then straightening up and drawing on his gloves he was about to depart when he said:

"Oh, I forgot," and taking from his vest pocket a couple of bills laid them before his wife. "There are three dollars, Ethel. Try to make that do."

"Thank you," she said, pleasantly, but the look that followed Mr. Clyde from the room was "composed of many conflicting emotions," as the novelists say.

The Clydes were not poor; far from it. Mr. Clyde was of the firm of Dean & Clyde, which was regarded as doing a particularly flourishing business, and this was the case. The junior partner was level headed and enterprising, Mrs. Clyde prudent and careful. Both liked to dress well and they agreed in their taste for social life. They had no children, their house was prettily furnished; they kept one servant. But how these tastes and essentials taxed the wits of Mrs. Clyde to maintain few realized, least of all her husband.

"Probably he thinks my bonnets, boots and gloves grow like bushes, or toads," thought she a little bitterly, as she walked into town that afternoon instead of taking a car, although it was fully a mile and she was feeling far from well.

As she had but three dollars she was perforce compelled to do without some of the articles she had called essentials. The cambric was for sleeve linings to an old dress she was herself remodeling. That she must have. She must have the slippers or soon her boots would not be fit for church and calling purposes. She could do without the lace and the ribbon, but these things would lighten up her old costumes so much! Relinquishing them with a sigh she banished fifty cents from her third item of postage and stationery, and the slaughter was complete.

In one hour's time she returned home with empty purse and sinking stomach—for she was both tired and hungry—just as Mr. Clyde appeared from the opposite direction. Mrs. Clyde had seen him step from the car and they went into the house together. Tea was ready and they sat down to the table immediately.

"Well, Ethel," said Mr. Clyde, pleasantly, unfolding his napkin, "you went down street this afternoon, I see."

"Yes," she answered, a little ungraciously, "I must be admitted. Mr. Clyde did not notice; he rushed blindly to his fate."

"Spent all your money, I'll be bound," he said jokingly.

"I did."

"Ethel, are you sick?" he asked, anxiously. "You look quite flushed. I am afraid you tired yourself. Why did you not take a car home?"

"Simply because I had no money."

"No money, and I gave you—" Mr. Clyde stopped suddenly, barred by the possible inadequacy of the sum he had given her.

"Yes, three dollars. I bought shoes, cambric and fifty cents worth of stationery. Result, nothing left for car fare or lunch, though I was simply famishing. So you must excuse me if I am a little cross, Robert."

Mr. Clyde looked thoughtful while his wife took fitful bites of bread and butter. He saw that she was out of temper and he thought it exceedingly unpleasant that Ethel must take the tea table as the place of exhibit.

"Why didn't you call at the store for more money?" he asked at length.

"Because I would not humble myself the second time."

"Ethel is it humbling yourself to ask for what is yours as much as mine? I should think it a simple matter to ask you for money."

"Suppose you try it awhile."

The words came clear and incisive, and struck Mr. Clyde as distinctly unpleasant. Still he answered calmly.

"It would be impossible, Ethel. I could not do business."

"Yes you could," she said, eagerly. "You need only come to me for your personal expenses. Just try it for one week and see how you like it."

"I should like it first rate, I know."

"Will you try it?"

"Yes, if you wish. Here is the pocket book," handing his wife the well-filled article to which he alluded. "Oh, I will take a five first."

"For what?" crisply inquired Mrs. Clyde.

"Well, I owe two dollars for cigars and I thought I might need the rest."

"Doubtless. I have not wasted five dollars in as many years, Robert. Here are three dollars. Try to make that do. It will pay for the

cigars and leave a dollar for extras."

"Very well," Mr. Clyde bit his lips tightly, took the bills, while he mentally concluded to let the cigars remain unpaid for until the following week. But he did not, for at second thought the plan appeared to be dishonorable, so he paid out two dollars of the three and remained the capitalist of one hundred cents, turning them over in his mind many times on his way to the office in his endeavors to make them last as long as possible.

"Where away?" called a gay voice at his elbow. "Those meditations must mean some sort of an upheaval in the firm of Dean & Clyde."

"Not at all," replied Mr. Clyde, with some embarrassment of manner at considering what they did mean. "When did you arrive?"

"Just down for the day," Mr. Lee lived in the neighboring city.

"Will you lunch with me at Graham's?" was on the tip of his tongue, but he did not speak the words; instead he said, hesitatingly, "Well, hope I shall run across you again," and hurried away.

"Wonder what ails Clyde. Perhaps I hit the right nail on the head with my blundering pleasantry," thought Mr. Lee. "I wonder if Dean and Clyde are sound."

Mr. Clyde went on to the office and forgot his troubles until night. He bought a daily paper, paid his tailor for mending a three-cornered tear in his coat, bought some extra fine peaches on his way home and entered the door with only three cents in his pocket.

"Well, I will ask for some more in the morning," he thought, but when morning came he could not make up his mind to do so and accordingly went to the office without money.

This day was a series of mortifying incidents from putting his hand into his pocket to pay the bootblack and finding nothing, to asking credit of Graham for a cup of coffee at midday, a serious headache having resulted from these vexing questions of finance. At six o'clock he encountered his most intimate friend, Arthur Cross, almost at his very door.

"You were coming to dinner and to spend the night with us?" asked Mr. Clyde, heartily.

"I really had not got as far as that."

"Well, you are here and Ethel and I will see that you go no farther to-night."

Willing to be entreated and not noticing the equivocal sentence, Mr. Cross entered the house and was cordially greeted by Mrs. Clyde.

After dinner the friends chatted and smoked together until Mr. Clyde proposed that they go to the theater.

"Will you go with us, Ethel?" he asked, after his friend had acceded to the proposal.

"Thank you," she returned, pleasantly, "but I do not feel quite well and besides I have a letter to write; but I hope you and Mr. Cross will enjoy yourselves." Then she arose to leave the room, seemingly unconscious of her husband's efforts to catch her attention that he might mentally telegraph a request for money.

"Ethel," he said at last, despairing, "please hand me a ten, won't you? Wife carries the pocket-book, you see," to his friend with a ghastly effort at pleasantry.

"So I see," returned Mr. Cross, with equal effort and similar result.

"Ten?" asked Mrs. Clyde, crisply. "Surely you will not need a quarter of that." Handing her husband a couple of bills which she took from a pocket-book mysteriously appearing from the back folds of her pretty house dress, Mrs. Clyde disappeared up the stairway to her own room, leaving Mr. Cross staring at his friend, who bit his lips in vexation but said nothing.

Good heavens! was this what marriage brought a man to? Mr. Cross had always thought of his friend as particularly fortunate. He was thinking of marrying himself, but now single blessedness looked particularly alluring. "Never be such a donkey as I am, Cross," said Mr. Clyde, suddenly.

"How? What?" asked Mr. Cross, flushing guiltily.

"If you get married treat your wife like a reasonable human being."

"I don't understand, I am afraid, Clyde. Is it the result of your efforts in this line that I just witnessed? I am afraid I shan't go to my wife for money and let her dole it out to me, if that's what you mean."

"You will proceed on the old plan, dole it out to her, hey?"

"I suppose I shall supply my wife with money, yes."

"Don't you do it. It is enough to kill love, domestic peace, everything," burst forth Mr. Clyde, energetically.

"I can't see that your plan tends to clear the marital atmosphere," dryly. "My father gave mother money for her needs. My brother does the same, and this is the way of my friends generally."

"If women were not angels of patience and forbearance they would have revolted long ago."

"O, come now, isn't that a little strong?"

"Not half strong enough," blurted forth his friend.

Mr. Cross pulled down his hat and shrugged his shoulders, irritably. Evidently his friend had mounted a hobby and was riding it to the death. "Most there, are we?" he asked as if he had forgotten the subject of conversation.

"I've tried it and I know," went on Mr. Clyde, unheeding the question. "It's what is killing so many women, this asking, begging, for money and having it doled out to them. People may call it nervousness, decline, prostration, overwork, what they will, but I know it is having to ask for money. I have had three days of it and I can feel the white hairs sprouting," and Mr. Clyde indulged in a hearty laugh at his own absurdity which cleared the mental atmosphere wonderfully.

"Oh, it is an experiment, is it?"

"Yes."

"Well, I am greatly relieved to know it. I feared you might be suffering from deterioration of the gray matter of the brain."

"But why is it worse for me than for Ethel, that's what I want to know. I've tried the plan three days and if I knew it was to last I should be tempted to drown myself."

"I fancy Mrs. Clyde overdoes the matter."

"No she doesn't. I've made it a rule never to give her as much money as she asked for and to require a rigid account of how she spent it. She is as proud as you or I and she has made buttonholes for a coat manufacturer rather than ask me for all she needed. That shows whether I made myself insufferable or not."

"Well, Bob, there must be something wrong in the system even if American husbands are noted as the cream of the world."

"O, that's all bosh. I've thought it all out the last three days. This idea of our domestic

perfection is one that rivets these chains our women wear. In Europe wives have their marriage settlements and they are independent in money matters. This teaches them the lesson so hard for American women to learn that a dollar can only be spent once and that while figures won't lie they often deceive."

"English women, for instance, save from one thing to buy another; they keep their accounts balanced; while here I have known my sister to spend a bill three times over in her mind before doing so in reality and then feel herself to have been cheated out of two thirds of her enjoyment. Women should be treated as equals."

"Once our superiors, now our equal. Remember the toast at our dinner?"

"There is too much of that sort of thing Arthur. It clouds one's ideas of right. I shall go on with this experiment the rest of the week—if I live—and then submit a plan which I have thought out to Ethel."

"A sort of half-and-half system or a common pocket book into which you can both dip?"

"Something of that sort."

"Well, let me know how the plan succeeds. I am to be married in June."

"So soon?"

"Yes, and your talk has interested me wonderfully. But for that I am afraid I should have treated Mrs. Cross to a repetition of the marital blunders in money matters."

This conversation, the latter part of it, had progressed at the theater. Now the play began and the friends were perforce silent, but while the lover in the drama was assuring his lady of his undying affection Mr. Clyde was wondering if it stopped at the breast pocket, whether with all my earthly goods I thee endow ever meant that or was from the first intended as a shallow compliment to the inferior half of creation that they might the more easily wear the shackles matrimony forged for them. With the nineteenth century had come enlightenment. Women, no longer inferior, refused to cajole or be cajoled. They have stepped from the ranks of idiots, lunatics and children and declare their equality and they are ten times more fascinating than ever to the man of sense, thought Mr. Clyde as he felt his respect rising for the woman who had earned money rather than beg for it even of her husband.

Mr. Clyde went through the week's experiment, asking for money when he needed it and getting along without when he could. He smoked few cigars, walked home from the office and resorted to various other makeshifts to save money but entered no complaints and Ethel began to feel at last as if he had failed to realize the full force of the situation.

However, at the end of the week she was undeceived and rejoiced to learn that henceforth matters were to be differently arranged. Just how, they did not at once decide, but one thing was agreed upon, viz. that their rights to the family funds should be equal henceforth.

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HIS CHRISTMAS GIFT.

WRITTEN FOR COMFORT BY GEORGE SMITH.

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JOHN Hamilton, New England born and bred, trusted representative of a great American business house in Manila, had decided to become a thief.

"An embezzler," the papers would call him, Hamilton thought grimly to himself; since his stealings would be reckoned not by dollars but by thousands. In his own mind, though, now it was made up, he did not quibble for words. He would be a thief.

The decision was no sudden one. The possibility of it had been before him, twice a year, ever since he had been in charge of the business of the house in the Philippines. Twice a year an amount of money had been sent him to pay out which would make an ordinary man rich. And he was only an ordinary man, who never would be rich, now, he reasoned, by work.

He would cut it all, name, friends, relatives, all the life which had been his, go out of it all, and somewhere else begin another life, an easy happy one, in which there would be no more dull days of plodding work.

The getting away would be easy enough. He had thought it all over so many times that his plans almost made themselves. He told himself that there had been little enough else to think of in that lonesome, foreign country, so that a man might almost be pardoned if his conscience did go back on him.

The money had come that day. He was to leave Manila at midnight, on a tramp steamer bound for Australia. The captain himself was to come ashore in a small boat for him. The Christmas holidays began that day. He had told his friends that he was to start early the next morning for a week's trip among the mountains. Long before it would be time for him to return and begin work again he would be safely out of the way. Even then it would be no one could know how long before the news of his flight could reach the firm at home.

His mother and sisters, back there in New England? Yes—what was the use, though? Had he not made up his mind that all that life was to be left behind?

Just then Ramon came in. Ramon was Hamilton's Filipino servant, and on this occasion he wore a more than usually smiling face. He brought the week's washing, the fourteen suits of thin white cotton clothes which a white man in Manila requires to get through a week with. When the servant had put the clothes away, perhaps a little more carefully than usual, he turned to his master and smiling still more happily, said:

"Now, will the senior be so good as to give me my Christmas money?"

Do not think the man crazy, or even rude. That was only one of the long-established customs of Manila life, before the war. At Christmas time the butcher, the baker, the hostler, the cook, the scullion, the office boy, everybody who rendered any service, no matter how generously he might have been paid for it, asked his gift unblushingly, as a right, and got it. Hamilton had that day given to twenty men, even to one who had come to collect a bill but who had still asked for his own *pour boire*. Ramon was the last; and the best. He had really liked the fellow.

It was nearly evening, now, and almost everything was ready. He had put the papers in his desk in order, that whoever came to take his place might have as little extra trouble in that way as possible. He had made out the pay roll for the office men, and given them their money. They should have their Christmas. The rest of the money, his Christmas, was in a hand bag ready for his journey.

"How much, Ramon?" Hamilton said.

"Oh, senior, that is not for me to say. The senior has always been more than generous."

Hamilton drew a package towards him on the desk, the balance of his own month's pay, from which he had paid bills that day and made gifts. He took five dollars from it, hesitated a moment, and then put another five with the first.

"Oh, senior! Thanks, thanks, thanks! It is too much!" the servant cried, although his eyes were glistening with happiness. "This will help me so much towards buying the freedom of Anita?"

"Towards what?" asked the man's master.

"Who is Anita?"

"The most beautiful and the best girl in Manila," replied Ramon, his head thrown back with pride, for a moment, until he added, dropping his eyes again, "But she is a slave, and I love her, and will marry no other woman but her, free."

"Only," he went on, "it is so long to wait. She is so beautiful and so quick to work that her master asks forty dollars for her; and I had only fifteen dollars saved in two years, until today. It is slow to save the money I must be, with the father and the mother to care for."

Forty dollars. There were fifteen dollars left in the package. What odds? There was a fortune in the bag. It was the last time. Hamilton shook out the money and pushed it towards the man.

"Oh, hush up," he said to the native's eager thanks. "That's all right. Go and find Anita, and tell her. Good night. Yes. A merry Christmas."

"A Merry Christmas." Who would be there to wish him that tomorrow? No matter. He himself would wish it to himself.

Hamilton spent the evening in cleaning up his room, burning letters, and packing another

bag with clothes. Even then the time dragged. Eleven o'clock came. Another hour to be got through. He took his hat and went out on to the street, to have one last look at the city.

In Manila, in those days, on Christmas eve everybody was in the streets. A few, a very few, went into the churches to pray; more strolled in to hear the music and see the lights about the *bambino* before the altar, and then strolled out again.

Hamilton found himself in the cathedral, wandering up the aisle. Now and then he bowed to some one whom he knew, out like himself to pass the time away. Inside a railed-off space before the chancel there knelt upon the stone floor a little group of those who had come to worship. Among them he saw Ramon kneeling beside a beautiful Visayan woman. While Hamilton stood watching them the man and woman rose and came from behind the railing, hand in hand, into the aisle.

When Ramon saw who stood there before them he gave a glad cry, and his eyes shone.

"Anita!" he said. "The gracious senior!" and added some words in the woman's native tongue.

At which Anita looked up, shyly at first, at the great American. But a moment later, her eyes glistening with tears of joy, she said softly, "The senior is more good than we can ever say to him, but we have been tonight to thank God for his gift, and to ask the blessed Christ child to give to the senior this Christmas all the reward which the goodness of his heart deserves."

Then they had bowed low before him and gone out, still hand in hand.

Hamilton followed. "To give him all the reward the goodness of his heart deserved." It seemed as if the priests in the chancel chanted the words; and when he had gone out into the open air he still heard them.

He stopped upon a corner, thinking. Men and women jostled him, careless of their steps in the rush of the holiday celebration. A coolie passed. Hamilton hailed him and gave him a coin.

"Go down to the water front," he said, "and find a man waiting in a small boat at the long pier. Tell him the American senior sent word he would not come, and that the steamer was not to wait."

Then he went home, while the bells in the cathedral tower were filling all the city with their message that the hour of midnight had passed, and that the dawn of Christmas Day had come.

TAGS FOR FOOD FISHES.

WRITTEN FOR COMFORT.



HERE is something very picturesque about the notion of fastening metal tags to marine fishes, and then letting them loose in the ocean, with the idea of identifying them as individuals in case they happen to be caught at a future time.

This is what the United States Fish Commission is doing just now with cod, fifteen hundred of which have been duly tagged and released this year. No two tags are alike, the markings on them being stamped in a series of letters and numbers, record of which is kept in a book in such a manner that, if a tagged codfish turns up, a moment's reference to the memoranda will furnish the history of that particular specimen, with date of liberation, weight, and so forth. For example, a cod wearing a tag with the raised inscription "S 10" has a complete identification card, so that she cannot be mixed up with any other fish entered in the Commission's ledger.

Only "brood fish"—i. e., spawning females—are tagged. They are bought from fishermen, stripped of their eggs at Wood's Hole, Mass., and liberated in the waters of Vineyard Sound, after having the tags attached to them. The tag is a small piece of copper, securely fastened by a wire passed through a fin near its junction with the body. It does not matter much which fin is chosen, though a back or tail fin is best. The tag is very light and its attachment in the manner described does no harm whatever to the animal. During the last few months the Fish Commission has distributed a circular all along the coast of New England, requesting that whenever a cod with a tag comes into the hands of a fisherman or other person, he shall remove the piece of metal and send it to the Commission station at Wood's Hole, together with a brief statement as to the date on which the fish was caught, where it was captured, its weight before being dressed, its length and the condition of its roe.

The object of the tagging is to ascertain the rate at which a cod grows, the frequency of its spawning, and the extent of its travels in the ocean. Knowledge of this kind has an obvious bearing upon fish-cultural problems, and there is every reason to believe that the future of the cod fishery off the New England coast must depend mainly upon artificial hatching. The hatching of cod eggs and the planting of the fry in those waters has been carried on for several years, and already the fishery shows a notable improvement, apparently due to this work. During the present year, the work coming to an end April 1, there were planted in New England waters two hundred and fifty million young codfish.

This year the Fish Commission is going to bag many thousands of young salmon, artificially hatched for the rivers of the Pacific coast. Very small tags will be used, the fishes being "fingerlings," about three inches long. It is expected that in this way will be ascertained the age at which the salmon come from the sea to spawn; also their rate of growth and the percentage of the fry that attain maturity. The work will be carried on in the basins of the Columbia and Sacramento.

Some years ago a similar experiment was made at the Fish Commission station on the Clackamas River, which is a tributary of the Columbia; but, instead of tagging the young fishes, the soft dorsal fins were shaved off of them with a razor before they were released. When they came back to spawn, three years later, they averaged twenty pounds in weight.

From this experiment one or two very interesting conclusions were drawn. If all of the artificially hatched fry had survived and been captured, it is obvious that 1000 of them would have contributed 20,000 pounds of food fish for market. As a matter of fact, only one out of ten of them returned and was taken, the result being 2000 pounds of fish for every 1000 young ones liberated. At five cents a pound—

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the regular price paid by the canners to the fishermen—each 1000 fry hatched by the Fish Commission represented just about \$100.

These figures are instructive. At the present time the Fish Commission hatches annually in glass jars, with the help of running water, seventy-five million salmon, which it plants in the rivers of the Pacific coast. If, as is believed to be the case, every 1000 of these finny infants represents a ton of salmon three years later, it is obvious that the total result per annum is 75,000 tons—that is to say, 150,000,000 pounds, which, at five cents a pound, fetch \$7,500,000 in the market, incidentally supplying the United States and many countries abroad with an article of diet most highly valued.

A number of years ago an experiment was made with the tagging of brood salmon in the Penobscot, in order to find out whether they returned to the sea after spawning. The salmon of the Pacific coast, having ascended the rivers to lay their eggs, never go back to the ocean, but die in the headwaters of the streams. It is not so, however, with the Maine salmon, which, as was proved by the tags attached to them, come back to the river every second year to breed.

The fact has been established that salmon, though they spend most of their lives at sea, never wander very far from the mouths of the rivers in which they were originally hatched. A Sacramento salmon, for example, always remains a Sacramento salmon from birth to death, feeding in the neighborhood of the mouth of that stream and ascending its current when the spawning period arrives. It is the same way with the shad, which, like the salmon, is a marine species, only running up the rivers to perform the function of reproduction.

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Midwinter Sports in the Northwest.

WRITTEN FOR COMFORT.



PERHAPS there is no section in the United States of America more favorable for midwinter sports than in the vicinity of St. Paul and Minneapolis.

One of the most novel experiences to the New Englander is ice-boating. During the average winter season there are days and days of favorable weather suitable for this fascinating and fashionable sport when it is clear and crisp and exhilarating. If the weather is too keenly cold the pleasure is not assured, because the great speed intensifies the cold which is exposing and uncomfortable.

It was a merry party that went out to Lake Minnetonka one day for an ice-boating excursion. After an appetizing dinner at the club-house which is delightfully situated on the shore of the lake and open all the year, the party, composed of gentlemen and ladies heavily clothed proceeded to the white-winged fleet, which the skippers held in readiness. The white sails gleaming in the sunlight, and the red velvet cushions in the shallow decks and the skippers in their bright parti-colored suits, tightfitting and warm, all made a very picturesque scene.

One looks and feels somewhat like an Arctic explorer when starting to embark on the ice-boats. Wraps of the heaviest and warmest kind are worn and extras are carried along. To be warm is an important condition, and anything contributing to it is permissible; the more one presents the appearance of an Esquimaux the better.

In construction, the ice-boat differs essentially from the sail-boat or any craft that skims over the lake during warm weather, or even cold weather. There are two long hard pine beams that cross each other at right angles; the cross beam rests on two short steel runners or skates, and swings easily from the main beam, so that the boat is readily controlled. On the boom which runs parallel with the long main beam are the sails, and at the rear end of the main beam is the deck which is very shallow, finished in cherry wood and lined with red velvet cushions. The deck accommodates only four persons, including the skipper.

Just in the rear of the deck is the rudder, which together with the sails is controlled by the skipper. Short steel runners are also on the front and rear ends of the main or body beam.

Passengers cannot sit erect in a sail-boat, but must recline, or half lie down, and hold fast to an iron bar which passes through the center of the deck.

Once started, the speed is something almost appalling, distancing in a few moments all other modes of conveyance.

The sensation of rapidity resembles the toboggan slide more than anything else; but includes an experience not found on the toboggan; and that is the turn or whirl of the ice-boat which is done at the same rate of speed. This turn is something tremendous in force, and if one did not hold fast to the iron bar with all one's strength, one would be hurled off without any ceremony and left spinning round and round on the ice until one's head feels like bursting from dizziness; and bruises and scratches on the face are included. Yet this rough treatment seldom, if ever, causes any fatal results.

These turns occur when the boat must change its course or run ashore, for ice-boats run a straight course as far as they can.

New comers are usually notified of the coming turn so they may get their grip on the iron bar, which is covered with red velvet.

During a first spin or cruise a sense of fear is developed by the swift, sharp turn, and there is a longing for the shore, while the sharp cutting of the air caused by the great speed is not always comfortable to the new-comer. Woolen or knitted mask hoods are often worn to temper the sharp air. As the ice is sometimes hubbly one gets quite a shaking, and a whirling, rushing shaking, unlike any other.



CURLING.

By repeated spins one becomes accustomed to the speed of "those awful whirls," as all new-comers call them; and it is not long before one becomes fascinated and is not quite satisfied until "twenty miles in twenty minutes" have been run. Racing speed is often recorded at a mile a minute, and at a distance the boats in full sail look not unlike gigantic sea gulls skimming over the frozen surface of the lake.

Some of the boats in the fleet on Lake Minnetonka were brought from the Hudson River, where ice-boating has been in vogue for a long time. They are made very strong and of the best materials, and frequently cost five hundred dollars. That it requires more nerve and training to manage an ice boat than a sailboat is apparent to any observer.

The question is often asked, "Do serious accidents ever happen?" They are the exception, and then usually through one's own carelessness. If a rudder breaks, which seldom, if ever,

happens, the passengers drop off and the boat runs full force into the shore. The heavy clothing breaks the force of the passenger's drop off, otherwise one might be considerably but not dangerously hurt. Ice boating requires a generous expanse of frozen surface, hence large rivers and lakes are the usual spinning grounds of these speedsters.

A winter sport enjoyed particularly by the Scottish people of Minneapolis is "Curling" on the ice. This game has been known in Scotland for three hundred years and more. It is thought to have originated by men and boys hurling stones over the ice, and was at first called "channel stane," or stone.

The Highlanders and Lowlanders played the game with great energy and interest. The game includes two contending parties, usually four on a side, who hurl and slide large smooth stones of a circular form from one mark to another called the tee. At either end of a space of ice one hundred and thirty-five feet long, are circles, in the center of which is the tee.

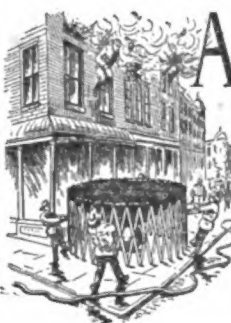
To hurl a curling-stone along the ice to the tee, putting it into position, or in driving competing curlers out of position is the skill demanded in the game.

The curling-stones are made of granite, polished on the upper surface, and used by a strong, nickel-plated handle. They vary in weight from thirty to forty pounds.

The broom is a part of the outfit and is used with great energy, and oftentimes in a laughable fashion to keep the ice perfectly free of all impeding substances.

Match games are frequently played between the Northwestern cities with great enthusiasm. The curlers usually wear mackinaw jackets, which are bright colored and warm.

The greater development of a fondness for out-of-door sports in winter is very marked in Minnesota; and without the inevitable energy so often observed there, is the natural outcome of a vigorous and bracing climate.



NEW kind of life-saving net seems likely to come into use by fire departments in cities, being excellently adapted for the reception of persons jumping from the windows of burning buildings, while readily reduced to small bulk and portable shape when not in actual employment. The frame that holds it when in operation is constructed on the lazytongs principle, and when extended

takes the form of a ring-like table with a multitude of legs and a network bag for a top. The lazytongs are quickly locked when in this position, so as to prevent them from collapsing and the net offers a safe landing for anybody who may drop into it.

For additional safety hand-grips of rope are provided on the external periphery of the apparatus, so that firemen and bystanders may take hold and by pulling outward give extra stability to the affair. Beneath the net is attached a large air-cushion in the shape of a ball, to contribute yet more resistance to weight suddenly brought upon the net. When the latter is no longer wanted for the time being, it is collapsed into a compact cylindrical bundle, the lazytongs enclosing the net; the air is let out of the spherical cushion at the same time, and the whole contrivance is stowed compactly on the ladder-truck or other vehicle or else suspended beneath.



HE glass models of flowers, in the Harvard University museum, are the sole product of two Germans, father and son. The father made some flowers in glass in 1862, and from that time on has worked on the construction of glass models of flowers and plants. These models are constructed wholly of glass, part of which is colored before and part after the completion of the specimens, the total number at the present time being over 2500.

The contract between these workers and the University calls for one hundred complete specimens annually for the next six years. These specimens are arranged to illustrate the systematic relations and the economic species, and in every case the principal peculiarities of the plant, especially its relation to the surroundings. The method of packing these extremely fragile specimens for transportation is so well perfected that they arrive in this country in perfect condition, and seem like fresh plants just taken from the field, so perfect are they in every detail.

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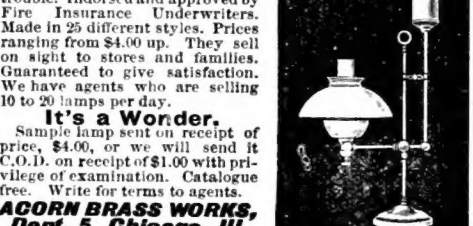
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D

A black and white line drawing of a hand holding a knife, cutting into a block of butter. The butter is melting slightly, and the knife is positioned diagonally across the top of the block. The hand is shown from the side, with fingers gripping the handle of the knife. The butter block is rectangular with some texture lines indicating its softness.

Nine years ago a Pittsburg chemist named Acheson discovered by an accident the substance now known as "carborundum." He was trying to make artificial diamonds in an electric furnace, out of a mixture of carbon and clay. Some exquisite crystals resulted, and he thought for a while that he had succeeded. It soon appeared, however, that the crystals were an entirely new compound of carbon and silicon, harder than the ruby and only less hard than the diamond. Their usefulness as an abrasive seemed obvious, and apparently there was a great fortune in the manufacture of them for this purpose. Unluckily, their value in this way has not been found to be as great as was supposed, because the crystals are brittle and of unequal hardness. It has been ascertained, however, that further treatment in the electric furnace will convert the carborundum into graphite of a very high grade, for which there is a never-failing demand. It was imagined for a while that the crystals might be marketable as artificial gems, inasmuch as they are very pretty, but this expectation has not been realized.

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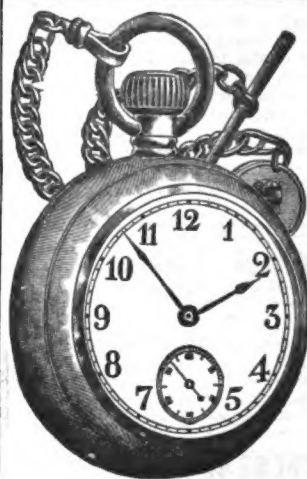


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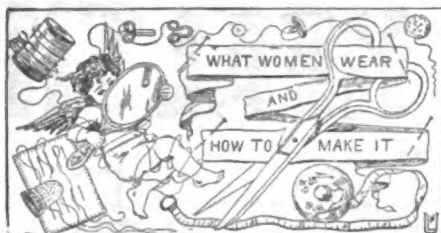
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COMFORT, Augusta, Maine.



WRITTEN FOR COMFORT.

It has come to be an understood fact that the severe tailor-made gowns, consisting of perfectly plain coat and skirt, are now worn largely by the "out door" woman who goes in for all sorts of sports, and have lost their high place in the affections of general womankind. Certain it is the large share of tailor gowns turned out in New York are Frenchified by nameless little touches which relieve them from severity, and yet they are strictly "tailored". For instance, a search through any of the best known houses on the Avenue shows the growing tendency to fanciful skirts and decorative bodices. One of the newest skirts of the season has a tight-fitting upper-body, with a box-pleated flounce attached at the knee, the upper part overlapping the flounce in squares. A blouse coat accompanies this skirt, finished over the shoulder by three graduated capes, all heavily stitched, as are all the edges.

Braiding is lavished on all gowns, gold being a distinct feature of this adornment. Broad bands of Hercules braid, outlined with narrow gold cord is much in favor and is most effective. This same Hercules braid combined with the gold is used upon the newest flannel waists, together with as many small gold buttons as may be effectively placed. Take it all in all, there is a very decided craze for gold trimming on all gowns where its application may be legitimately used.

Very few sleeves are plain. The bell shape is much in vogue, sometimes reaching to the hand and sometimes short enough to display a small undersleeve of whatever material may correspond with the gown in question. The sleeves of jackets and coats, especially, are made up in this style. The Bishop sleeve with loose cuff is also displayed on coats and wraps. In fact the only radical change in the winter coat from that of last season is the sleeve; especially is this so if one chooses the short coat. The half, three-quarter, and full-length box coat reigns supreme, though for continuous wear it is not to be recommended as one wears of so pronounced a style, and unless one has just the right shade of jauntiness about their carriage the effect is extremely disappointing.

At the furriers are superb wraps made in the box style, those made up of broad tails being most effective, combined as to collar and revers with mink, ermine, or any of the various handsome furs we now have. A cloak fit for a princess is built of chestnut brown broadcloth (a peculiar reddish shade), the full-length skirt box-pleated onto the yoke, over which is arranged a wide collar, forming a hood at the back of ermine, deeply bordered with mink.



The box-plaits are held close to the figure almost to the waist, by means of narrow stitched straps fastened at the left side by means of large jeweled buttons. The loose Bishop sleeves have cuffs of the ermine edged with mink.

The newest cry in the shirt waist world is the bolero made of the same material and finished with stitched bands of like or contrasting color. I saw such a stunning one of scarlet flannel, the soft waist surmounted by a natty little bolero of the same material, bordered on all its edges with inch wide gold braid. It has

bell sleeves and is collarless.

Separate boleros of black velvet made very short and hollowed out at the throat considerably to display the dainty under waist, are smart adjuncts to a dressy toilet, embroidered as they are with the richest and most gorgeous of colors, as well as the lavish use of gold.

Velvet hats are by far the most favored thing in millinery. An especially smart toque has a soft crown of deep rosy-violet velvet, around which is effectively draped velvet of a lighter shade of pink. This is also massed softly in front and held in place by a jeweled buckle. When worn on the head it has the effect of a Napoleon hat, than which no other shape is more sought after. A dream of a hat in this shape is made of white mirror velvet edged with beaver fur, and set off by a cluster of soft white plumes.

The Aiglon collar is the newest. It is high and straight and fastens with one button to the left of the front.

The inverted plait seems to be the most popular for tailor skirts. It was fully expected that habit backs would again be worn, but failed utterly this side the water.

Light-weight stuffs for indoor wear are made up in a variety of fanciful ways, the skirts being tucked, shirred or plaited. A gauze skirt intended for a party frock has bias tucks running from the side to the fullness, and was let out or held in place by a buckle.

One of the daintiest waists it has been my good fortune to see this season has its entire body made of accordion plaited chiffon across which are set three-inch bands of heavy gold embroidery, one in the center and one on either side, the edges attached at intervals by means of small turquoise ornaments. The sleeves have a body of the chiffon across which are set bands of the gold the second one drawing the chiffon snugly at the elbow, while the third forms a cuff to which the soft, full sleeve is attached.

Another pretty bodice has a body of plaited chiffon in pale rose. Over this is worn a bolero of white taffeta embroidered in gold thread and white silk. After being embroidered the silk was cut away, thus showing the color through. A line of gold was also around the edge of the sleeve and top of the collar, while a narrow belt of gold fastened with a gold and blue enamel buckle gave the finishing touch.

For the woman to whom furs are impossible, a stylish neck piece is shown in the form of a thick, deep ruche of taffeta, Liberty silk, or chiffon, finished with a dozen or more long loops on either side of black chenille. These ends are allowed to fall straight and are very effective and becoming. Very often these chenille ends are tipped with the odd little gold points now considered so modish. Boas of coque feathers are again in vogue and are sometimes combined with fur, with to my mind, a somewhat unsatisfactory effect.

A feature of new neck wear is the finishing of the folded silk ties with gold points, or oddly enameled ornaments, made light enough not to cause the ends to drag. A chic little neck fixing consists of an inch wide band of gauzy gold braid, brought around the neck, and crossed midway to the bust, the two short ends finished with gold points studded with turquoise.

Narrow belts of gold with all sorts of fancy buckles are the latest cry and add a dainty finish to many a plain toilette.

A smart little stock is made of Persian silk with a plain border of the predominating color in the Persian. The top of the collar is edged with three rows of narrow gold braid which is used also inside the band on the bow.

Some of the new turbans appear almost square in their flatness. One of violet velvet shot with gold threads has the velvet laid in precise folds straight about the turned-up turban brim which is to be set low over the forehead. The crown is lower than the brim and is laid flat and smooth, intensifying the square shape. A broad brown quill speckled with purple and gold sweeps about the turban along the top of the brim starting from a gold buckle at the left side rather toward the back. Very picturesque are the flat hats of black velvet, somewhat after the style of the poke, and trimmed simply with choux of the velvet arranged flatly across the front. Such a dainty one I saw having a cluster of pale pink roses nestled in at the side.

One can get up such wonderfully pretty collars and undersleeves with so little trouble, and as one set can be made to do service with various waists and coats, their first expense is not to be considered. A pair of undersleeves of white Liberty silk is barred across with narrow black velvet, each band lined through the center with a small gold cord. The loose cuff has a border of blue panne velvet beside the black velvet and gold cord, and is closed with dainty turquoise buttons. The stock shows a combination of the colors.

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The ordinary every-day life of most of our women is a ceaseless treadmill of work.

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One day she is wretched and utterly miserable; in a day or two she is better and laughs at her fears, thinking there is nothing much the matter after all; but before night the deadly backache reappears, the limbs tremble, the lips twitch—it seems as though all the imps of Satan were clutching her vitals; she goes to pieces and is flat on her back.

No woman ought to arrive at this terrible state of misery, because these symptoms are a sure forerunner of womb troubles. She must remember that Lydia E. Pinkham's Vegetable Compound is almost an infallible cure for all female ills, such as irregularity of periods, which cause weak stomach, sick headache, etc., displacements and inflammation of the womb, or any of the multitudes of illnesses which beset the female organism.

Mrs. Gooden wrote to Mrs. Pinkham when she was in great trouble. Her letter tells the result.

"DEAR MRS. PINKHAM:—I am very grateful to you for your kindness and the interest you have taken in me, and truly believe that your medicines and advice are worth more to a woman than all the doctors in the world. My troubles began with inflammation and hemorrhages from the kidneys, then inflammation, congestion and falling of the womb, and inflammation of the ovaries. I underwent local treatment every day for some time; then, after nearly two months, the doctor gave me permission to go back to work. I went back, but in less than a week was compelled to give up and go to bed. On breaking down the second time, I decided to let doctors and medicines alone and try your remedies. Before the first bottle was gone I felt the effects of it. Three bottles of Lydia E. Pinkham's Vegetable Compound and a package of Sanative Wash did me more good than all the doctors' treatments and medicine. I have gained twelve pounds during the last two months and am better in every way. Thanking you for your kind advice and attention, I remain, Yours gratefully, "MRS. E. J. GOODEN, Ackley, Iowa."



MRS. E. J. GOODEN

\$5000 REWARD

Owing to the fact that some skeptical people have from time to time questioned the genuineness of the testimonial letters we are constantly publishing, we have deposited with the National City Bank, of Lynn, Mass., \$5,000, which will be paid to any person who will show that the above testimonial is not genuine, or was published before obtaining the writer's special permission.—LYDIA E. PINKHAM MEDICINE CO.

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There is nothing about a home as necessary as a fine duster. This picture shows the new All Wool Duster. Neat and convenient and so soft and clean that the daintiest article may be dusted with it without danger of scratching or scarring. Removes all dust without effort. Every duster may be hung in parlor where they make nice ornaments. Assorted Art Colors with highly finished wood handle firmly secured with Bright Aluminum Ferrule, that never tarnishes or grows dull. Will last for years and always just the handiest thing a woman can have in the house, or a man in the store or office. Make delightful presents for your friends as a gift or souvenir. Agents will find them the best selling article in the market. Special terms for those who wish to sell. A GREAT OFFER FOR ALL. We will send one sample All Wool Duster free to any person who will send twelve cents for a trial three months' subscription to our great family paper. The best offer ever made.

GOLDEN MOMENTS, Augusta, Maine.

The Pan-American Exposition.

WRITTEN FOR COMFORT.

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THE OFFICIAL DESIGN.

THE beautiful vision of the White City on the banks of Lake Michigan a few years ago was believed by most good judges to be the very zenith of industrial exhibitions of the world's products. No more common idea was expressed in Paris this year than the comparison of the exhibition with the one at Chicago, and few were found who believed that the bewildering dream of the exhibition of Chicago was reached in general design or appearance by the cramped and crowded Parisian fair. Next year, however, in our own country, is to be an exhibition which it is boldly claimed by its projectors will be the most satisfying world's exhibition ever given, and in beauty will outclass any of its more pretentious rivals, while it will completely eclipse all the attempts at the smaller exhibitions which have been given in the last few years, which were more than national in character, but not on the level of the large international fairs.

Ever since the great Centennial exhibition in Philadelphia, the people who have seen these fairs have been impressed with the idea that the vastness of the international exhibition made it impossible of complete survey by the ordinary person with the limited means and limited time at his disposal; while, on the contrary, the smaller exhibitions were hardly as much as could be expected. The Buffalo people, with their characteristic enterprise, decided some years ago upon the establishment of the Pan-American Exposition of 1901, and are now making every preparation for an exhibition which shall be so comprehensive in character as to give all that is desirable of the great fair, and to take away any criticism which attaches itself to the smaller one. They have, in fact, selected the happy medium so far as size is concerned; but have gone into a scheme of architecture, coloring and art which it is believed will easily eclipse any attempt, great or small, which has ever been made in this line. Where Chicago was one vast white city, the Buffalo exhibition is to be a marvel of bright colors and intense effects which has never been attempted by any similar exhibition.

The Pan-American Exposition is to be opened at Buffalo, May 1st, 1901, and will continue until the first day of November of the same year. It was called Pan-American from the original intention to make it a distinctively American exposition, embracing both the north and south continents, and its object was to bring into closer relations, commercially and socially, all the governments on the western hemisphere; but its scope has gradually increased until it promises to be one of the most complete and satisfying exhibitions ever given. The managers have wisely decided upon a great exhibition, which might not be called vast, and which, great as it will be, could be thoroughly seen in the time which is usually devoted to such objects. Congress appropriated \$500,000 in the year 1899, and since then the subscriptions have been largely increased by other means. Official acceptances have been received, in answer to the invitations, by almost every country of the two hemispheres, as well as those on the continent. For a long time there was no great public interest in the projected fair; but in the last few months every indication has shown that intense interest and competition are aroused, and everything shows that it will be a most successful enterprise. As usual, the entertainment is entirely run by a stock company, which has worked heartily for its success, and which has been very wise in the choice of its officers and members of its Publicity Bureau.

No city in the United States is better adapted for this great exhibition than Buffalo, a city of wide streets beautifully laid out, of handsome residences and superior hotel accommodations. It is of itself well worth a visit from any person, and it will but add to the attractions of the fair itself. It has beautiful suburbs, fine parks, and is a typical residential city of the highest class. Only a few miles away are Niagara Falls, which are easily reached by several railroads and electric lines; and on the other side are the beautiful excursions which will be arranged to take in one of the Great Lakes, the St. Lawrence, Thousand Islands, and the quaint, half ancient cities of Quebec and Montreal. Altogether no location could have been more satisfactory than that selected.

The principal buildings of the exposition surround a broad, beautiful court, in the form of an inverted letter T. The transverse section of this court is known as the Esplanade, running east and west to a distance of 1700 feet between the two extremes. The Court of Fountains, which lies north of the transverse section, is 500 feet wide, and 2000 feet from north to south. The grounds will be entered through the beautiful entrance on Lincoln Parkway. There will be a large number of buildings devoted to the exhibition proper, many of them under Government control. The Government group alone

will consist of three buildings, as it is the intention of the administration to make this one of the greatest features of the whole exhibition, and larger than anything that has been attempted, for the benefit of our kindred nations in this hemisphere. There will be the usual number of larger buildings for horticulture, graphic arts, forestry, mines, etc.; and a more thorough detail of these buildings and what may be seen in them will be given in a future number of COMFORT.

In addition to the court already named, there are a number of others, each of which will contain beauties of the highest art. The aquatic basin in the Court of Fountains is 225 feet wide by 560 feet long, containing considerably more than two acres of water. This is to contain numerous fountains, and will constitute one of the rich scenic effects. It is on the east and west side of this Court that the Manufactures and Liberal Arts, and also the Machinery and Transportation buildings are situated, which are to be the two largest buildings of the exposition.

The general style of architecture of the exposition is a free treatment of the Spanish Renaissance, which has been chosen as a compliment to the many Latin-American countries whose interest was sought and received in this enterprise. The plan promises an exposition splendid and unique in architectural aspect. The architects have found their inspiration chiefly in the Latin-American cities, and the work of ornamentation is being carried out elaborately in every detail. Colonnades and arcades, suggesting coolness and comfort; elevated pavilions, balconies, loggias, domes, lanterns, towers, minarets, commanding broad views of the grounds; fancy flag standards and finials of varied design will be extensively used in the ornamentation of the main structures. The finer details will be worked out by the liberal use of statuary, medallions, arabesques and other work in relief. About 125 grand original sculptured groups are under contract, a far greater display than seen at any other American exposition, the work engaging



ELECTRICITY TOWER AND FOUNTAIN.

the attention of all the leading American sculptors.

In planning the exposition, the management early decided upon giving electricity special homage and position. The progress of this science has been so marvelously rapid in the past few years, and so many people believe that it is the coming light, heat, and power of the world, that every attention has been given to a most complete exhibition of its many uses. No city in the world is as well situated as Buffalo for a complete exhibition of this great branch of industry. The nearness of Niagara Falls, which have been harnessed to man's mechanism, and where now are the greatest electric power plants known in this class of engineering, give a power which could not be contemplated by any other city in the world; for in no other place could so large a volume of power be available except at a cost that would make it practically impossible. These famous falls, by the magic of electrical science, will turn night into day, and give to every ripple of the decorative pools, and every spouting fountain, a fantastic brilliance that will make the



ELECTRICITY BUILDING.

courts of the exposition a fairyland of unprecedented loveliness.

To describe one building which we have illustrated, the Electric Tower, it is three hundred and seventy-five feet high, and upon it are to be displayed electrical phenomena to an extent hitherto unattempted. This stands between the Court of Fountains and the Plaza. The main body of the tower, which is shown in our illustration, is eighty feet square and two hundred feet high. The crown is in three parts, of diminishing proportions. The first of these is a loggia, with the wall surfaces brilliantly colored, and richly ornamented in all details. At the base of the tower, on the east and west sides, are two colonnades, seventy-five feet high, which sweep to the southward and

form a semicircular space, opening toward the Court of Fountains. Elevators will carry the visitors to the many floors. At a height of seventy-five feet is to be a restaurant, with a roof garden; the floors on other heights will be used for reception rooms and other purposes, and from the various floors, pavilions and cupolas, may be seen the most beautiful views of the city, Lake Erie, Niagara River and the Canadian shore. The whole exterior of the tower is to be richly ornamented with plastic designs and sculpture. It is intended as the centerpiece of the exposition. The great panels on the four sides will be of openwork, so that the effect at night, when the interior is lighted, will be exceptionally brilliant and grand.

The Temple of Music will have much attention paid to it both in architectural finish and in completeness. It will be a place of entertainment rather than for exhibition purposes, it having been decided that the exhibition of musical instruments in general shall have space in the Manufactures building. This building is to be richly ornamented, and its principal feature will be a great church organ, one of the largest ever designed. There will be festivals of music throughout the exhibition in this building, and it will be a rendezvous for all lovers of music.

From the Plaza, of which we give a view, is the entrance to the Midway and the Propylaea. In the Midway will be twenty acres devoted to novel entertainments, which will equal or surpass anything of the kind ever seen. In this place will be the largest Indian settlement, representing the most tribes, and giving the best idea of Indian life ever gathered.

The Propylaea is properly the railway station, but is not, as some fancy, the transportation exhibit, which is in another building. It is designed as a great railway station on the north end of the grounds.

In the Stadium, near to it, will be held athletic carnivals during the exposition on a scale far more elaborate and comprehensive than has ever been undertaken in America. The high position which Americans have taken in recent years in international sports, and their many victories in international contests abroad, especially in the recent world's fairs, have created such emulation in foreign countries that contests are being arranged, which will far surpass any of the great international contests with which we are familiar. The exterior dimensions are nearly equal to those of the famous Colosseum at Rome. The arena will contain a quarter mile track and ample space for athletic contests of all kinds, and there will be a seating capacity of ten thousand.

The grounds chosen for the exhibition are in Delaware Park, which lies in the northern part of Buffalo, well within the city limits. The entire park contains three hundred and fifty acres, and within the park lands is a small lake, which is described as one of the most beautiful interior lakes in the country. It will undoubtedly prove a great drawing card for the first year of the new century. When it is realized that the greatest patronage which is received in European travel and European cities is from the Americans, and that we as a country spend money freely and even lavishly, and that the greater part of the patronage of the far away Paris Exposition was American, the possibilities for the coming Buffalo exposition are easily realized. With the great prosperity which is prevailing all over the United States, the exposition is certain of a great home patronage. To this will be added the natural curiosity and interest of foreigners, especially Europeans, on account of the rapid strides which the United States has taken to the front in world affairs in the last two or three years. Having everything in this country for use and luxury, more natural scenery than in any other part of the world, and everything, in fact, except ruins, which come along with time, it is a surprising thing how few foreigners, comparatively, have taken the trouble to visit the United States. To those who have broken away from conventional forms and come to America, it has been a revelation; and it is safe to say that almost all of the very few luxuries of travel which are found in Europe come from America, and from the insistence of American travelers. The condition, however, has changed within two or three years, and there is now the greatest desire on the part of foreigners to visit America and see for themselves its wonders; so that with the Pan-American Exposition, the international yacht race, and the general prosperity of the country, it seems safe to predict that the attendance on the Buffalo Exposition will be not only one of the largest, but of more cosmopolitan character than any previous exposition in America, if not in the whole world.



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If you live east of the Rocky Mountains, cut this ad out and send to us and we will send you this high grade Violin outfit, by express, C. O. D., subject to examination. You can examine it at your express office, and if found perfectly satisfactory, exactly as represented and the greatest bargain you ever saw or heard of, pay the express agent and we will send you our Special Offer. Price, \$3.25 and express charges. This is a GENUINE STRADIVARIUS MODEL VIOLIN, made of old wood, curly maple back and sides, top of seasoned pine, especially selected for violins. Edges inlaid with purplish, best quality ebony finish trimmings, beautifully finished, highly polished and splendid tone quality. Comes complete with a genuine Stradivarius model bow, one extra set of strings, well made case, are piece of rosin and one of the best instruction books published. TEACHES ANYONE HOW TO PLAY. You can use the instrument ONE MONTHS' FREE TRIAL. Rent one month in your own home, and if you have any cause whatever to be dissatisfied with it, you may return it to us at our expense and we will refund your money. Order immediately. Such a violin outfit cannot be bought elsewhere under \$8.00. Write for FREE Musical Instrument, Piano and Organ Catalogue. Address: SEARS, ROEBUCK & CO., CHICAGO.

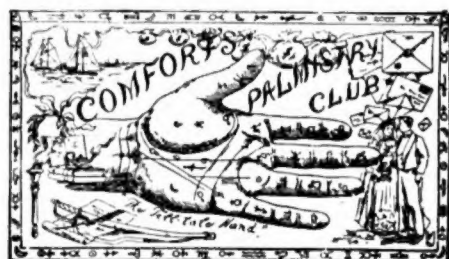
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It Won't Turn Silver to Gold, nor Turn Gold to Silver; but It Will Coin Dollars for You. Agents Wanted.

The Electro Polishing Cloth, a wonderful prepared cloth that gives electric brightness and lustre to every metal it touches. Without any powders or paste, simply by rubbing with this cloth, a brilliant lasting polish will be placed on Tableware, Gold, Silver, Nickel, Copper, Plated ware, Bicycles, Glass, etc. Bright, absolutely clean, and perfectly free from corrosive tarnish or dirt and will last. The greatest Revolution in the Household. Takes the place of all Polishes, Powders, Pastes, Liquids and all Chamolins at less than one-quarter the cost. It is especially adapted for cleaning and polishing Metal or Glass Tableware. It works Wonders; and a child can use it! Will clean and polish just as well when black as when new. No matter how soiled the "cloth" may become, the black will not rub off and the hands. Can be used until entirely worn out. A small portion will clean and a dry portion polish until the cloth is worn threadbare. Directions with every cloth. Simple and sure. Ready, Quick, Clean, Economical. The greatest invention of the Century.

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CONDUCTED BY DIGITUS.

CONDITIONS.

To have one's hands read in this department, by Digitus, one of the finest living palmists, it is necessary to observe the following conditions:

Impressions of both hands must be sent, fully postpaid and having the name, address and name of the sender enclosed in the package also.

The package must in every instance be accompanied by the names and addresses of eight new subscribers at twenty-five cents each, the whole amount, \$2.00 being remitted, with the package, addressed to COMFORT PALMISTRY CLUB, Augusta, Maine.

No notice will be taken of impressions and requests for readings unless the sender has fully complied with the above conditions.

To take impressions, first hold two large pieces of blank paper over a candle or similar flame, until they are heavily coated with the smoke. Then lay these pieces down, smoke side uppermost on a pad of cotton. Now place the two hands, palms downward, one on each sheet of paper, pressing firmly and steadily down, but taking care not to move the hand. Keep them so for one minute and lift carefully, so as not to disturb the impression. Have ready some fixatif, which can be bought at a drug store or an art store or made with gum arabic and water in an atomizer. Spray this over the impressions before they are moved and allow them to dry. Then they are ready to send.

Smoked paper impressions are the best. But if it is desired to send a plaster cast, take plaster of Paris and dissolve in water to the consistency of thick cream. Pour this into a large shallow dish and when it is hardening place the hand, well-extended, palm downward, in the plaster, pressing downward. Several minutes will be required to get this impression and great care must be taken in removing the hand, not to break the plaster. Casts are exceedingly difficult to send without breaking and should be very carefully packed in a box with the name of the sender written on it. Putty is sometimes successfully used in place of plaster. A good photograph of sufficiently well taken to bring out all the lines, can also be read, although in all cases the smoked paper is the best, if properly treated with fixatif.

Bear in Mind that all the above conditions must be observed.

Also, that letters not complying with them will go into the waste-basket. Readings cannot appear for several months after impressions are sent.

ANY letters like the following come to me every month and they make my work easier and my life pleasanter:

"I have read with interest all your articles in COMFORT and I want to tell you that of all the palmists, which are legion, I have come in contact with I never knew one to interpret the lines of the hand so plainly and satisfactorily as you do." She also states that she has read the books of Cheiro, Louise Colton, St. Germain and Dix, and wants I should recommend others, more exhaustive. Probably the most exhaustive is Heron-Allen's "Manual of Cheiroscopy," which can be had of Brentano, N. Y., or ordered through any book store. It is an English book and the author has used the best of systems of D'Arpentigny and Adrien Desbarrollee as well as others less well known among the established authorities. Eliza Henderson of Cambridge, Mass., has issued a text book also but I do not consider it as good as Cheiro's. The last named is so arranged that it is easier to learn; but the author is quite independent of the older authorities and so his conclusions are sometimes confusing to one who has studied others.

For instance, "Agnes" asked some questions regarding the marriage line under the little finger awhile ago: I answered, giving Cheiro's opinion, which confused her not a little. I do not pretend to decide between eminent authorities, I only give their conclusions. I will answer a question for Agnes, in the hope that it will help other students, of whom I find I have many in COMFORT.

A line starting from the head-line and following along the fate-line, either crossing it or not, and keeping close to Saturn or Jupiter, or between them, would probably mean a marriage late in life, or else a very close friendship. It would surely mean marriage if corroborated by a similar line keeping close to the lower part of the life-line. The farther the life-line and this accompanying line go towards the rascettes, the farther the last marriage goes on in life.

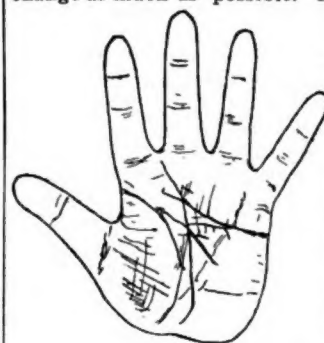
"A subscriber" wants to know if a deep line from the top of the Mount of Mercury and cutting the line of marriage will hinder the marriage? If the marriage is not unmistakably indicated on the fate-line or the life-line, yes.

"C. R." will find her reading in the October number. "Anxious" asks a lot of questions that are impossible to answer unless I could see her and examine the actual hand; and even then I would not undertake the impossible.

"H. S." has sent three excellently taken impressions which he wishes read and he has attended to his part of it in such a business-like way that it will be a pleasure for me to do so.

"R. O. L." was born with some peculiar tendencies but improves upon his natural conditions as he grows older. His life-line in the right hand is too deep for the best of health; I should say he had a paternal inheritance of some kind that will affect his life after the age of fifteen. He will live, however, to be sixty-five or seventy and will not have much trouble aside from this matter of the health. Some affair of the heart, in which he will meet with opposition either from his or her people will affect him seriously about the age of twenty-five, and he will, as the phrase is, "go all to pieces over it." But he will recover, although he will not, so far as I can see now, marry. These lines, however, are very liable to change, as the lines on a young boy's or girl's hand are all liable to great changes; therefore too much dependence should not be placed on their readings. Cheiro will not read a child's hand between the ages of six weeks and eighteen years, for the reason that the lines change

so that he claims no actual truth can be predicted from them, on account of these certain changes. I, however, read everything that is sent to me, with the statement I have made, in case of a young person. There will be in this case a good deal of restlessness and desire for change, and the best that can be done with him will be to gratify his desire for travel and change as much as possible. He will be upright and conscientious and will be a good man. His nature is straight forward and he will be successful in his business, whatever he may decide upon. I should advise either a business career, or if he has a talent for music or teaching, let him follow



"L. O. U."

that. He will never make an orator so he ought not to undertake the law or the ministry.

"L. O. U." has a remarkably good hand, indicative of a singularly strong, fine character. She has two breaks in her life-line that I do not like very well, but as they are not borne out by the left hand I think she will overcome their evil effects. I should say, however, there had been a serious illness about the age of twenty and would be another not far from fifty years of age, which she will survive; if the latter, she will live to be eighty or more. She needs to be very careful of her health between forty-five and fifty-five. She had some remarkable preservation from serious accident or trouble about the age of thirty—a trouble that affected the heart as well as the head; she may not realize how great this was, but it is plainly written in the square that shows on both life-line and heart-line. She has a splendid fate-line and would make her way anywhere; would make a fine business woman as she has all the qualifications necessary to success. She is a splendid wife and mother. I congratulate the man that married her, as she can be depended upon for everything that a wife should be. She will not marry but once, but I think will outlive her husband. She is fond of music, reading and society and will have many friends, but most of all will appreciate the affection of her husband and children and the charm of home life.

"H. S." has a life-line that indicates a not over-strong constitution; something hereditary, perhaps. His life-line is too deep to be altogether good. In his early youth he was kept bound down and did not have the chance he needed; this may have been owing to poor health or to other circumstances. At fifteen or eighteen he was under very strong opposition but should venture to say he took the reins into his own hands then and struck out for himself from that time on, getting on better and better every year. He has a gentle, upright, lovable nature, many friends and the strong love of his family; but I cannot see or predict any great business success, unless it comes through someone else. He will live to be a very old man and his health after fifty-five or sixty will be greatly improved. He is happy in his married life and I should think has very few crosses to bear; perhaps because he has a sunny nature or perhaps because he has the happy faculty of throwing off trouble and letting other people bear it, if any one must. At any rate I should say he was very philosophical as well as sensible. He is a man of upright character and one that everyone instinctively trusts and loves. He has some gifts as an orator or public speaker which he would do well to improve. On the whole his is a very good and negatively fortunate hand; that is, it is not an unfortunate one.

Please notice the terms of a reading and comply carefully with all the directions.

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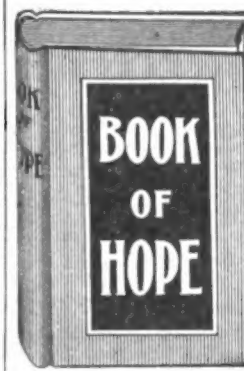


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LADIES I Make Big Wages —AT HOME— and will gladly tell you all about my work. It's very pleasant and will easily pay \$18 weekly. This is no deception. I want no money and will gladly send full particulars to all sending 2c. stamp. MRS. A. H. WIGGINS, Box 5, Benton Harbor, Mich.

HEALTH, HAPPINESS AND INFLUENCE



PROF. H. C. MURPHY, originator of

"MODERN MAGNETISM"

and President of the American Institute of Science, has prepared a course whereby the ambitious can gain WEALTH, POWER, POSITION AND HEALTH. Through this course you develop a power that not only controls men and affairs, but through it you are taught that wonderful science which seems to come from the mysterious deep, now known throughout the civilized world as MAGNETIC HEALING. It has been proven that this power lies dormant in every human born into the world. Although this wonderful power has an origin which seems to come from the mysterious deep, it is easily mastered through the plainly written course by Prof. Murphy. You can LEARN AT HOME. The only education necessary, the knowledge to read. Through the knowledge you gain you are able, without the aid of drugs or the surgeon's knife, to

CURE YOURSELF

as well as those about you. There are many people, both men and women, who shrink from the embarrassment of making their diseases and infirmities public, and on this account go through the world suffering tortures and pains, but through this method you are able to HEAL YOURSELF IN THE PRIVACY OF YOUR HOME, and in a few days you are in the sunshine of health to the surprise of your acquaintances. Many a modest woman suffering untold agonies from diseases peculiar to her sex has gone to a premature grave rather than subject herself to the embarrassment of an examination. The same can be said of men who suffered from indiscretions that they were ashamed to confess. This grand method permits sufferers of both sex to do away with this embarrassment, for by it they cure themselves without the assistance of anyone. The "BOOK OF HOPE" written by Prof. Murphy in a plain and concise manner, tells you exactly how you can gain this wonderful influence whereby you become proficient in curing disease and bad habits in yourself and in others, develop mental energy, gratify ambitions and gives you the key to personal and social successes, also teaches you the grandest and best paying profession of the day, as it is an acknowledged fact that there is no profession known today where independence can be so easily gained as through this grand profession. It reveals wonderful secrets and makes the impossibilities of yesterday realities of today.

ABSOLUTELY FREE

Send your name and address, and you will receive this grand book as well as the Magnetic Record, a 32-page illustrated magazine, without any cost whatever to you.

Thousands who have become successful through this course write similar letters to these:

Rev. S. P. Freyberger, Goshen, Ind., writes: Your course will enable the student to practice the Art of Healing as soon as the course is completed. Having practiced Magnetic Healing for a year past and having been very successful I thank you most heartily for the knowledge I received from a study of your mail course. H. A. Brooks, M. D., Vioris, Mo., writes: I believe it is possible by your method to accomplish things that the entire world will look upon with astonishment. The field of Magnetic Healing is as broad as the world itself. It brings wealth, health, happiness and influence.

Write today and receive The Book of Hope and the "Magnetic Record" FREE.

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For \$2.75 we furnish a full dress pattern of six yards of genuine 42-inch Pierola Two Tone Mercerized Crepon, your choice of colorings, goods that retail everywhere at \$1.00 per yard. Cut this ad. out, mention No. 308K, and send to us, and we will send you a big, full dress pattern of six yards of this fine, 42-inch, new style PIEROLA Mercerized Crepon by express, C. O. D., subject to examination. You can examine the goods at your express office, and if found perfectly satisfactory, exactly as represented, such a dress pattern as you could not buy from your storekeeper at home at less than \$6.00, a class of goods that is seldom found in country stores at any price, pronounced by everyone the greatest value ever shown in your section, the acme of fashion, then pay the express agent OUR SPECIAL OFFER PRICE \$2.75 and express charges. The express charges will average from \$5 to \$6 cents.

THIS HANDSOME NEW MERCERIZED PIEROLA CREPON is one of the heavyweight fabrics shown this season, a fancy raised crepon effect. Comes in heliotrope and black, gold and black, turquoise and black, white, green and black, blue and red, navy and turquoise, green and red, cardinal and black, brown and gold, olive and cerise, also black. BE SURE TO STATE COLOR WANTED. We have bought these goods direct from one of the largest mills UNDER A POSITIVE GUARANTEE FOR QUALITY.

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If ruptured write to Dr. W. S. Rice, C. Main St., Adams, N. Y., and he will send free a trial of his wonderful method. Whether skeptical or not get this free method and try the remarkable invention that cures without pain, danger, operation or detention from work. Write to-day. Don't wait.

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A Gold Lined Silver Dish FREE!

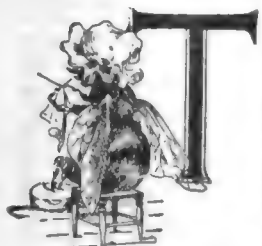


To introduce our famous little **Giant Oxien Pills**, giving all the chance to derive the wonderful benefits from these new life-giving wonders, we send two boxes absolutely free, all charges paid. You sell the Pills for 25c. per box, send us the money within 20 days, 50c. in all, and we give you as a premium this wonderful **Gold Lined Silver Dish** free. These dishes are warranted **quadruple plated silver**; they are fluted top and beautiful and useful ornaments; they are suitable for dining table use, or used as side dish for bon bons they are elegant and will last for years. Send your name and address at once so your friends can derive the great benefits coming from the use of **Oxien Pills** and you get the profits as the dish can be sold in a minute for 75c. These Pills are noted for their quick action on Liver, Stomach, Heart, Bowels, and special organs of either sex. All ills vanish as if by magic if you use these Pills. Send quick so as to be sure of a dish before they all go, and get full particulars of our great money-making agency proposition, where you get hundreds of dollars from a one dollar investment. Address,

THE GIANT OXIE PILL DEPT. M, Augusta, Maine.



WRITTEN FOR COMFORT.



THE new mosaic table tops are within the reach of all, for they are made from the pieces of china which result from breakage that is much more frequent in most households than the owner of the China enjoys.

As soon as enough pieces have been collected to cover a

square table top the work of arranging them should begin. This does not take long to accomplish. The table to select for the purpose is a plain one, made of pine and enameled with white paint. Its height and shape of legs as being suitable for a card table, should be considered.

It is first necessary that a piece of moulding about half an inch in width, should be set all around the top of the table, and as its corners require to be well mitred, it is best to have this done by a carpenter. The table is then in readiness to receive its china top.

First fill the entire space within the moulding with putty, so that it rises to a height about equal with the moulding. The various bits of china are then taken up separately and pressed into the putty, until the whole surface of the table is covered.

When this is accomplished the effect produced is something like a mosaic, or a piece of crazy patch work. Of course any particular scheme can be worked out in this way. For instance, a top made entirely of bits of blue and white china would be charming.

Or, if one has enough pieces of a similar color, a star can be fashioned to radiate from the center. White china also can be blocked in to produce a smart effect. It is always a point to be remembered that the putty hardens quickly, and the pieces should therefore be first collected and set in at once, if possible, during the



PEN WIPER.

same day. As they sink the soft material naturally rises up between them and forms putty ridges that must be smoothed down until exactly even with the china.

It is now desirable to go over the surface with a coating of shellac, applied with a small camel-hair brush. After this has been done it is a good scheme to put the whole thing away for a day or two, or until it has become perfectly solid and dry.

The final touch, and one that adds greatly to the beauty of the top, is to cover all the lines of putty with the same sort of gilt used to regild old picture frames. This, too, should be done with a fine camel-hair brush. After this, a good washing with cold water is about all that the table requires.

A very unique and at the same time ornament-



PIPE RACK.

al rack for pipes to adorn a smoking room is easily made out of brown ocre calf.

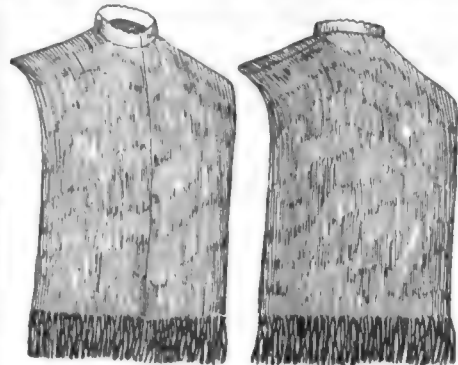
Take a piece of skin a foot and a half long by two feet wide. With a very sharp knife fringe the edge of the leather by cutting in small strips about three and a half to four inches on all the edges. Across one of the longest sides (fastening at either corner), suspend two or three narrow strips of leather. These may be looped up in the middle with a bow knot of leather ends. Then with a hot iron shaped

like a blunt pencil burn into the nap of the leather a motto appropriately selected.

Between these words, artistically arranged, may be six or seven five inch strips of leather fastened at either end to the leather background by small brass fasteners. Through these, arranged at different angles, the pipes can be easily slipped, bowl uppermost. Then mount this leather sheet on the same size board or heavy card board and your novel pipe rack is ready to hang on the wall.

There probably never was a child, whether boy or girl, who hasn't at some time made tubular worsted trimming on a spool, into one end of which four pins have been stuck. The penwiper herewith illustrated is made in this way of black worsted. When enough has been made it is formed into shape by means of bonnet wire, inserted inside the roll of worsted, for the body, legs, tail and arms. The head is made of black kid over a ball of worsted and the face is painted with water-color. Strands of the worsted form the hair. When finished it is fastened to a piece of cardboard which has previously been covered on both sides with cloth representing the colors of some one of the leading colleges, and a flag made of the same color, is placed in one hand. Under the piece of card board may be tacked flat leaves of black cloth, for wiping the pen, and it is also intended that the pen should be wiped on the worsted of which it is made, for which purpose black is selected.

One of our illustrations shows a combing towel. This is so easily made that one could make half a dozen, to give to friends, and feel that very little time had been expended and yet such a useful article had been made. Select



COMBING TOWEL.

fine damask towels with nice heavy fringe. Fold over so that the fringes lie together. Then cut a hole in the center large enough to go comfortably around the neck and button. Slant off the space on either side of neck hole, to the edge of towel, and seam up, forming shoulder seams. Then cut an opening from neck to fringe, in the front portion, and make three button-holes on one side and put three pearl buttons on the other. Simply hem the fronts and neck. If you care to make it more elaborate, embroider comb and brush on one side of front, and a cluster of hairpins on the other.

Country-house visiting has become such an institution in these days that there are few people who do not spend at any rate a few days in the year among their friends and relations.

One spare room, at least, is an absolute essential in all well-to-do houses now, and the housewife who really takes a pride in her establishment should manage to make it one of the prettiest bedrooms in the house. It is generally daintily furnished, and to all outward appearance leaves little to be desired. Yet many visitors whose stay in the house would otherwise be very pleasant, have to endure endless discomforts, which a little foresight and tact would entirely obviate.

However small a visitor's room may be, it is always advisable to squeeze a writing table into it. Many people prefer writing in their own rooms, where they can be quiet and undisturbed, and a hostess should see that they are duly provided with writing materials. The inkstand should be full, the paper rack and blotting book well supplied, new pens should be in the holders, there should be a penwiper, and also an almanac with the correct day of the month indicated, and a waste paper basket under the table.

A graceful fern in a pretty pot placed on the writing table and a small one on the mantelpiece would improve the appearance of any room, however pretty.

The bookcase should be filled with books suitable to the taste of the occupant, and there should be a few current magazines left in the room—not back numbers, but up-to-date ones.

The houses where people have the best times and where they want to go again, are the free and easy ones, where the hostess plans various forms of amusement and entertainment for her guests, and lets them choose those that suit them best, or stay quietly in the house and read or rest. In other words, where they feel "at home."

Coal has advanced \$1.50 per ton, but a Rochester Radiator will save one-half your fuel.

Six Steel Pens Free.

Millions of people use steel pens and we have bought an immense lot which we want to introduce into new families. Will send six of different kinds, fine, coarse and medium, to all who send two cents for mailing expenses. Lane & Co., Augusta, Maine.



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Electric Seal Collarette
Worth \$10 for **\$3.98**

C.O.D. to your nearest express office. Try it on, examine it and if you find it is the biggest bargain ever offered pay agent \$3.98 and charges and it is yours, or will forward it on receipt of \$4.55, prepaid. Money refunded on request. This beautiful electric seal collarette is made of fine skins, trimmed with ten long and bushy American Marten tails, lined with heavy satin, fully worth \$10 for \$3.98.

FREE—Our beautifully illustrated Catalogue No. 57 of Furs, Fur, Jackets, Caps, Suits, etc. A postal brings it. Write now.
M. PHILIPSBORN, 188 State St., CHICAGO.

Please mention COMFORT when you write.

THE FINEST—SMOOTHEST RUNNING—MOST PERFECT

No. 9 ARLINGTON SEWING MACHINE

FULL BALL BEARING. Highest Grade, Highest Arm, Richest Golden Oak Finish, Inlaid Marquetry Decorations.

DROP HEAD 5 DRAWERS

ADVANCE NO MONEY.

If you wish to purchase the best constructed strongest, easiest running, finest appearing and most reliable high-grade sewing machine in the world, cut out this ad., and send it to us, write your name, post office address and railroad shipping point plainly, we will then ship this splendid machine by freight C.O.D. for examination. Give it a searching critical inspection at your freight depot; if you find it is perfectly satisfactory, and \$25.00 better in quality than any machine any other house can sell you, pay the agent our low price \$15.45 and freight charges and the machine is yours, otherwise the agent will return it to us standing freight charges both ways. All we ask is that you act in good faith.

THE BALL BEARINGS prevent friction and afford absolute ease to the operator. The balls are large size made from fine tool steel and run in an oil tempered steel cup which is adjustable.

ALL ATTACHMENTS FREE. We furnish in a metal lined push case without extra charge the following nickel steel foot attachments:

One ruffler or gatherer, one shirring plate, one binder, one tucker, one braider one quilting attachment, one foot, one thread cutter, also foot hammer and feller, needles, bobbins, screw drivers, oil can, oil and instruction book.

THE HEAD has positive four motion feed. No rattling springs used. It makes a double lock stitch; is noiseless; has round tool steel needle bar, self-threading shuttle, self-setting needle, automatic bobbin winder, automatic tension release, improved loose wheel, patent dress guard and belt controller.

PROMPT SHIPMENTS. There will not be any delay in filling your order, we have the machines, thousands of them, all tested and ready for shipment.

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OUR REFERENCES: First National Bank of Chicago (largest bank in U.S.) or any express company in Chicago.

\$15.45



FULL BALL BEARING
This cut shows machine open, ready for use.

Does light or heavy work.
Doctors praise this Machine for its easy running qualities

Guaranteed for 20 Years

GOLDEN OAK, INLAID, FOLDING CABINET.
The substantial and beautiful appearance of the cabinet with its inlaid marquetry decorations will please you greatly. The woodwork is of choice quarter sawed oak, thoroughly seasoned, kiln dried, hand rubbed and polished to a rich piano finish. When the machine is closed it becomes an attractive stand or center table.

\$15.45 **GRANDEST OFFER EVER MADE**
At \$15.45 we are offering the finest Family Sewing Machine that skilled workmen and expensive, severely tested materials can produce. Positively equal to machines sold by dealers and agents for \$20.00. We manufacture 23 different styles from \$9 up. Write for new catalogue, it's free.

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You may die any minute—anywhere. Heart troubles, dangerous as they are, can be instantly recognized by all. No doctor can tell better than you if your heart is out of order. If you have any of the following symptoms, don't waste any time. Get my Heart Tablets at once.

Fluttering, palpitation, or skipping beats (always due to weak or diseased heart); shortness of breath from going upstairs, walking, etc.; tenderness, numbness or pain in left side, arm or under shoulder blade; fainting spells, dizziness, hungry or weak spells; spots before the eyes; sudden starting in sleep, dreaming, nightmare;

Heart Disease

choking sensation in throat; oppressed feeling in chest; cold hands and feet; painful to lie on left side; dropsy; swelling of the feet or ankles (one of the surest signs); neuralgia around the heart; sudden deaths rarely result from other causes.

They will restore you to health and strength as they have hundreds of other men and women.

FREE To prove how absolutely I believe in them, to prove that they will do exactly what I say, I will send a box free to any name and address sent me. One trial will do more to convince you than any amount of talk. It will cost you nothing, and may save your life. Send for a trial box and enclose stamp for postage.

DR. F. G. KINSMAN, Box 962 AUGUSTA, MAINE.

Learn TELEGRAPHY

Positions guaranteed. Enclose stamp for full particulars. O. W. DOWELL, Sept., Nilesville, O.

SEND NO MONEY If you live east of the Rocky Mountains, Cut this ad. out and send to us and we will send you this **HIGH GRADE GUITAR** by express C. O. D., subject to examination. Examine it at your express office, and if found perfectly satisfactory, exactly as represented, equal to guitars that sell everywhere at \$15.00 to \$18.00, pay the express agent **OUR SPECIAL OFFER PRICE, \$2.95** and express charges. (Express charges will average 50 cents for 500 miles.) This is a regular \$6.00 genuine troubadour, mahogany finished guitar, highly polished, beautiful inlay around sound hole, American patent head, best nickel plated tailpiece, one of the most powerful and sweetest toned instruments ever offered. Comes complete with an extra set of genuine Gibson strings and a GUITAR BOOK OF CHORDS, WHICH TEACHES ANYONE HOW TO PLAY.

ONE MONTH'S FREE TRIAL You can have this guitar for one month's trial in your own home, and if you will not return it, we will refund your money. Write for Free Musical Instrument and Piano and Organ Catalogue. Organ, \$25.00 and upwards; piano, \$115.00 and upwards. Address, **SEARS, ROEBUCK & CO., CHICAGO, ILL.**

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At all druggists, 50c. a box or sent on receipt of price, securely packed. Send **FREE SAMPLES** your address for

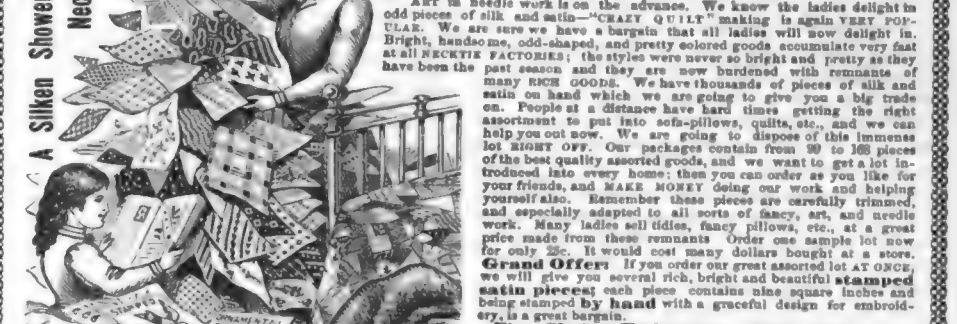
THE ENTONA CO., Dept. C, 61 Fifth Ave., N. Y.



FREE ANY ONE CAN EASILY EARN A WATCH-CHAIN AND CHARM—LADIES' OR GENTS' STYLE—GOLD PLATED, NICKEL OR SILVER WATCH. (not a big clock called a watch.) CHAIN BRACE-LET with lock and key. **FREE** PIECE TEA SET (full size for family use). **FREE** DOLLY INITIAL RING. We mean every word we say. To quickly introduce our house and goods we will give away thousands of the above prizes—**ABSOLUTELY FREE**. Send us your name and address (no money asked) and they will send you, prepaid, 15 beautiful stamped dillies, different designs, with 15 exquisitely performed charms. Sell the Dillies at 10c. each and give one charm free with each. When sold send us the \$1.50 and we will at once send you for selling 15, one Watch-Chain and Charm and a Ring with any letter you wish, together with one of our pit Tea Set, etc. **PARIS ART CO., 8, 5 MONTCLAIR, NEW JERSEY.**

A Big Lot of Real Silk and Plush Also Stamped Satin

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Five Shells Embroidery Silks Free. In order to work your stamped satin and other pieces we also send absolutely **FREE**, five shells of elegant embroidery silk, all different bright colors. This silk is worth nearly the price we ask for the remnants; but we know if you **ORDER ONE** lot we will sell many in your locality, so make this liberal offer besides giving you a large and elegant piece of 35 square inches.

BEST WAY. We send ONE of the above complete assorted lots **FREE** to all who send 25 cents for 6 months' subscription to "COMFORT" the best Home Monthly now published, to your friends and neighbors who will send free with each work, or for other ornamental work where Fancy Stitches are used it has no equal. It shows how pieces for patchwork may be put together to get the best effect, how to cover up seams with fancy stitches, how to join edges, etc.

The book illustrates over one hundred and fifty of the best directions for taking ART EMBROIDERY STITCHES, comprising the Outline and Kensington Stitch, Arrasene and Chenille Embroidery, Ribbon Work, Plush or Tufted Stitch, etc. It also tells how to do Kensington Patching.

Remember we send our big lot (over 100 pieces) Silk Remnants, the assorted stamped satin piece 5 Shells Embroidery silk; 35 square inches plush, and a great 15c. book on embroidery together with 6 months' subscription to "COMFORT," all for only 25 cents. Three lots and one year's subscription, 65 cents; five lots \$1.00. Address, **COMFORT, Silk Dept. B, Augusta, Maine.**

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Or Exceeding 15 Millions A Year.

It was a hippant Englishman who observed: "This civilization of ours is all well enough but hardly up to date, don't you know." And when we read all the doings in China and the mobs at home we are almost compelled to endorse the spirit of his remark.

Another scientist has come to the front with a method of extracting gold from common white sand. He will doubtless find himself badly handicapped by the experience of those who invested heavily in the company that was to find gold in the salty water a year or two ago.

The Christmas story like the poor is always with us. No one has equalled Dickens in his fun and pathos. His Christmas Carols will bear rereading as often as the Christmas season comes around. No better expression of the spirit of the day can be made than Tiny Tim's "God bless us all."

Observant people notice that the last few years have shown a wonderful increase in the number of readers of good books in the rural districts. In the villages and hamlets of the country many reading clubs have been formed and the book purchasers now number hundreds where dozens were not found a little while ago. Publishers who have been acquainting the public with their books only through city dailies will soon learn that many of their most profitable customers are found in remote regions and among people whose access to daily papers is very irregular.

After five years spent in a journey around the globe, Mark Twain has returned to America. He recently commented upon the thing that impressed him most forcibly in America. We are, he says, "The Ungrammatical Nation." The bad English is not confined to the illiterate but college professors, ministers and editors, the intellectual aristocracy of the nation constantly violate all the rules of rhetoric and grammatical construction. A certain New England clergyman used to be known to the frivolous summer visitors as "Should have went," this being a favorite expression of his. This is but a single illustration of the careless English that makes us deserving of the title that Mark Twain bestows.

Periodically the cry goes up that grace and courtesy and leisure are all being sacrificed in the mad rush of the age. A recent writer attributes the change in women's manners to the disuse of the fan. This weapon of the coquette was once an indispensable article. The modern woman has hardly time to fan herself or to use the fan as an expression of moods. A bit of old time pleasantry was a fan drill, in which each motion was significant from the command "Flutter your fans" to the last "Ground your fans." The suggestion that a Chair of Courtesy be established in women's colleges was intended as a rebuke to the women who believe that education and business opportunities excuse a disregard for the graces of living. If a fan drill were allowed to be introduced as a part of the athletic training that women affect, a part of the work of the "courtesy professor" might be saved.

The mosquito has been universally hated and detested upon its own merits. He did once achieve a feeble literary distinction through a great writer's "Ode to a Mosquito." With great unanimity he has been declared odious by people who felt they could say all that was

necessary about the little pest without making statements that were fit to print. Now it seems that science has fastened upon the insect who has been only annoying, the responsibility of propagating fevers. The experiments made by two physicians who summered upon the deadly Roman plains, have convinced them that a person protected from the bite of the mosquito was immune from the fever. Other experiences and experiments seem to firmly establish the theory as a fact. For some time scientists have studied means of exterminating the mosquito. Now that it has been found to be a menace to health as well as an annoyance, all efforts will be bent towards the extermination of the deadly insect.

The old saying that Christmas comes but once a year is subject to individual interpretation. It is a relief or a regret as the spirit of the individual may determine. The man who feels compelled by circumstance and custom to spend large sums of money in Christmas offerings to all and each who may be in his employ thinks with a grateful air, "Thank heaven it comes but once a year." The woman who wears herself out in trying to carry out the idea that a gift should be personal handiwork breathes a sigh of thankfulness that after all "Christmas comes but once a year." The optimistic person who witnesses the general "good-will-to-men" sport of the season regrets that the day that calls forth all this display of kindness comes but once a year. It is the expression of our thought for others that makes the spirit of the day beautiful. It is the giving because we wish it and not because it is expected that furnishes the personal pleasure. Not all the abuses and extravagances and excesses with which we have grown to surround the season can take from it its kindly glow.

That people would not go to see Shakespeare played has been a popular idea of late years. This winter has seen a genuine Shakesperian revival. In New York, Richard Mansfield has put Henry V. upon the stage with a magnificence of stage furnishings and costumes never equalled in America and not exceeded in Europe. Romeo and Juliet, Hamlet and many of Shakespeare's comedies have been seen for the first time in years. The stage of this winter is distinctly literary. More than half the new plays are book adaptations. David Harum, Janice Meredith, Richard Carvel and To Have and to Hold were last season's popular books and are this season's popular plays. In fact it would be hard to name a book that has won any degree of popularity which has not been put upon the stage. These appeal to the popular interest of the moment but are an advance both intellectually and morally from the "problem plays" that have filled the stage. The best and most helpful part of the literary departure of the stagelies, however, in the vogue of Shakespeare. No better test of the strong human interest of the great master can be found than that shown through the interest that children always take in a Shakesperian play. The number of children in the theaters during the winter has been noticeable and it is the Shakespeare play that has brought them.

There seems to be a peculiar thought transference as to ways and means of raising money for churches, charitable work, etc. The old time list included such recreations as necktie socials, box socials, poverty parties, donkey parties, sheet and pillow case parties and all weird and grotesque combinations of fun and finance. No sooner did one form of money making develop itself than the whole population seemed to be familiar with the idea and from Eastport to Sitka the dimes and dollars of the great American people were coaxed from their pockets by similar entertainments. The latest, newest and most exhilarating development of the old idea is the popular "Rummage Sale." All the odds and ends of the garrets, good, bad and indifferent are gathered. What one person has cast aside may just suit the need of his neighbor. The sale appeals to a few wellknown weaknesses of human nature. First and foremost is the possibility of a bargain. Then who does not enjoy a rummage in the attic! To be able to inspect the spoils of a whole neighborhood of attics is a temptation too strong for average humanity and therefore the rummage sale finds a ready market for the "rummage" and a store of shekels for the object of the sale. What a place of disposal for the ill chosen and superfluous offerings that Kris Kringle brings in his pack.

Occasionally a thought wave seems to influence city and country alike. This has never been more evident than in the sudden interest in the comfort of women who must be away from home. New York City is soon to have a Woman's Hotel which will carry out all the admirable features of A. T. Stewart's pet scheme without the foolish restrictions that made that business enterprise bear all the marks of a charity. The comfort of the women who must lunch away from home has also been a subject of attention with the result that the business women have a lunch club in the busy downtown section and a large club numbering fifteen hundred women have established a lunch room in the heart of the shopping district. Quiet, good service and a pleasant place to rest are to be found at both these clubs. The idea that this might be desirable for women away from home for the day gains added strength in the rural districts. The farmer's wife who wished to drive into town with her husband has often been obliged to give up the expedition as she had no place to stay after her shopping was finished. The average hotel made no provision for her and if she had no near friend to "drop in" upon she found herself literally in the street. It was easier to stay at home and so the day that might have brought needed change into her life was given up. In many small towns the women's clubs have taken the initiative in fitting up a "rest room" for the farmers' wives. A cozy room with comfortable chairs, a couch, heat and light, is fitted up in some central location. Many towns have farmers sheds where horses may be driven under cover and cared for during the stop in town. Many of the shed owners gladly give a room for this purpose and the merchants of the town contribute towards its furnishings. In many places like this it is possible to procure a cup of tea or a light lunch. The idea is a most excellent one. It is practical from the business point of view for it attracts trade. It is philanthropic in spirit for

it brings a touch of pleasure and comfort into the lives of women who are cut off from the social pleasures and interest of town life. Towns which contain a Grange Hall might utilize that room or a part of it. Women have been the home makers and planners of comfort for others for ages but these little manifestations of interest for the comfort of the woman away from home are new enough and novel enough to mark the beginning of a new century.

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LIST OF THE PIECES OFFERED AT THIS TIME.

No.	PIANO OR ORGAN.	No.	VOICE AND PIANO OR ORGAN.
185	American Liberty March	236	Across the Bridge
186	Ancient's Liberty March—Two Step	237	Annie's Love. Duet for Sop. and Ten. Winter
247	Artist's Life Waltzes	260	At Noon tide
181	Auld Lang Syne. Variations	27	Ave Maria. From Cavalleria Rusticana Mascagni
187	Austrian Song. Op. 68. 1	140	Beacon Light of Hope
215	Battle of Trautman. Descriptive	134	Beautiful Moonlight. Duet
179	Beauties of Paradise Waltz. 4 hands	238	Bells of Seville
227	Beautiful Blue Danube Waltzes	182	Ben Bolt, or "Tribby" fame
65	Bells of Cornville. Potpourri	282	Between Love and Duty
213	Black Hawk Waltz	226	Blue Eyes
216	Blue Bird Echo Polka. Trans.	226	Boydood Days. Chorus
221	Bluebird Echo Polka	200	Bridge. The. Words by Longfellow
189	Boston Commandery March	268	Bride Bells
109	Bridal March from Lohengrin	276	Brown Eyed Beauty. Chorus
229	Bryan and Sewall March	192	Can You, Sweetheart, Keep a Secret? Estabrooke
239	Cavalier's Rhapsody. Four hands	214	Can You, Sweetheart, Keep a Secret? Estabrooke
133	Cadenza and Scales in all Keys	190	Come When the Soft Twilight Falls Schumann
1	Catherine's Waltzes	284	Come Back to Our Cottage
237	Cherokee Roses Waltz. 4 hands	188	Cool's Breach of Promise. Oake walk Blaks
181	Cloverland's March—Two Step	92	Cow Heart. The. Boyhood's Recollection Grimm
217	Cloveland's March	239	Danube River
81	Coming from the Races Galop	250	Darling I Shall Miss You
269	Coppella. Valse Lente	176	Darling Nellie Gray
21	Crystal Dew Waltz	244	De Banjo am de Instrument
235	Day Dawn Polka	128	Don't drink. My Boy, tonight. Temp. Hoyer
163	Dewey's Grand Triumphal March	290	Dream of Love
287	Diamond Valley Waltz	256	Dwelling with the Angels. Chorus
17	Echoing Trumpets March	80	Easter Eve. Sacred
121	Electric Light Galop	178	Easter Sweet. Is My Heart
91	Estelle. Air de Ballet. Very fine.	19	E Dunno Where 'E Are. Comic
107	Ethel Polka	72	Ellaline. Waltz song
155	Evergreen Waltz	180	Far Away
184	Fantastic Schottische	182	Father is Drinking Again. Temperance
291	Fantastic Schottische	182	Flag of Our Country. Patriotic
231	Faust. Selections	156	Flag. The. Quartette
77	Fifth Nocturne	144	Flirting in the Starlight
233	Fighting in the Starlight. Waltz	8	Floresie. Waltz Song
239	Flower Song. Op. 38	138	For a Beam's Sake
283	Forestville Waltz	68	For our Love are Praying at Home
277	Freischutz. Selections	166	From our Home the Loved are Going
177	Frolic of the Frogs	288	Gathered Roses
183	Fruit of Ginger. March Galop	202	Give a Kiss to Me
147	Grand Commandery March—Two Step	178	Give us a My Kind Old Mother
53	Greeting of Spring. Op. 21	262	Greeting Duet
281	Har and Toe Polka	190	Gypsy Countess. Duet
181	Her Bright Smile Haunts Me Still	158	Heart of My Heart
173	Hobson of the Merrimack Waltzes	212	How could I Leave Thee. Duet
139	Home, Sweet Home. Transcription	184	I Can't Forget the Happy Past
17	Impassioned Dream Waltzes	74	In Sweet September
183	Jenny Lind polka. Four hands	248	In Shadowland
183	Last Hope. Op. 38	268	In Summer Time
195	Leap Year Schottische	188	In the Starlight. Duet
253	Le Petit Ba. Polka Mazurka	28	Juanita. Ballad
159	Lee's (Gen. "L") "On to Cuba" Galop	242	Kathleen Mavourneen
248	Leopoldin. Selections	196	Killarney
248	Lionel. March—Two Step	182	Kiss me, but don't say goodbye
243	Love's Dreamland Waltzes	182	Kiss me, bound my Heart to mine
99	Maiden's Prayer. The	144	Laborer Watch. Duet
240	Martin's Selections	164	Listen to the Mocking Bird
207	May Bro. Four hands	48	Little Boy Blue. Solo or Duet
284	May Day Schottische	174	Little Lost Treasures
225	McKinley and Hobart March	98	Lost O' hord, The
55	Memorial Day March	234	Margaretta
131	Monastery Bells. Nocturne	112	Massa's Sleeping in de Churchyard
18	Morning Song	230	Memories of my Mother. Chorus
61	Morning Star Waltz	182	My Girl (Savannah Army)
201	Music Box. The. Caprice	172	My Mother's Welcome at the Door
137	My Love Polka	222	Musical Dialogue. Duet
125	My Mid. Kentucky Home. Variations	232	Must the Sweet Tie that binds
137	National Anthem of Eight Great Nations	170	My Home by the Old Mill
175	National Song of America	102	My Little Lost Treasures
135	Nightingale's Trill. Op. 81	170	My Old Kentucky Home
271	Ocean Waves Waltz	218	Oh Sing a gain that Gentle Strain
123	Old Polka at Home. Transcription	226	Old Polka at Home (Swanee Ribber)
171	Old Oaken Bucket. The. Variations	60	Old Glory. National
273	One Heart, One Soul. Mazurka	102	Old Glory. National
219	On the Wave Waltz	270	Old Village Church
197	Oregon, Queen of the Sea. Two-step	104	On the Banks of the Beautiful River
245	Orestes. Waltz	104	On the Beach. Most beautiful ballad Robinson
99	Over the Waves Waltz	258	On the Deep
193	Post and Peasant Overture (Suppe)	160	Outcast. Art. Character Song
265	Psyche's Gavotte	254	Parted from our Dear Ones
184	Red, White and Blue Forever. March	148	Picture of My Mother, The
143	Richmond March—two-step	174	Poor Girl didn't know. Comic
245	Rustic Waltz	136	Request. Sacred
127	Rustling Leaves. Idylle	208	Rocked in the Cradle of the Deep
39	Ruth. The. March Schottische	142	Rosemond
124	Salem Witch's March—Two-Step	80	See Those Living Pictures
189	Schubert's Serenade. Transcription	224	See Those Living Pictures
181	Silvery Waves. Variations	194	She Sleeps among the Daisies
189	Sultan's Band March	124	Softly shine the Stars of Evening
209	Sweet Long Ago. Transcription	210	Son's Return. The
163	Tornado Galop	210	Storm at Sea. Descriptive
103	Trifles' Grand March. Op. 18	278	Summer Showers
223	Twilight's Echo. Song without words	30	Sweetest Song. The
113	Under the Double Eagle March	46	Sweet Long Ago. The
129	Venetian Waltz	46	That Word was Hope. Waltz song
205	Village Parade Quickstep	208	There's a Rainbow in the Clouds
7	Visions of Light. Waltz	158	Thinking of Home and Mother
203	Warblings at Eve	292	Titan's Cradle
93	Waves of the Ocean March	116	True True. Dear Heart. We're Pading
281	Wedding March	203	Tread softly the Angels are calling
119	Winsome Grace. A perfect gem.	38	True to the Love
105	Zephyr Waltz	64	Vicar of Bray. The. Old English Song

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MUSICAL INSECTS IN JAPAN.

Japan is a country of oddities, and its people are noted for their love of dwarf nature, producing in the minute all forms of trees, flowers, etc. Their marvelous ingenuity shows in everything that they undertake of this kind, and a success of theirs, which is very little known, is their training of singing insects.

In almost all countries singing birds are esteemed, but it is only in Japan that the musical sounds emitted by insects are appreciated; and for many centuries it has been a custom of the Japanese to listen to these musical singers.

In any of the Japanese cities in the spring time, and way into the month of June, one sees suspended under the verandas of the houses little cages of bamboo, from which break upon the silence of the fresh twilight the strange whistling of metallic modulations and light trills which fill the air with delicate and delicious music. The Japanese hour of bath is in the evening, and after this refreshment it is the custom of the Japanese to sit upon the verandas, clad in kimonos, and listen to the music of these minute songsters.

The most prized of these singular insects is the *suzumushi*, which means in Japanese, insect bell, and the sound of its voice is that of a tiny silver bell. It is a little black beetle with a long flat body.

The *kutsuwamushi* is so named because its cry resembles the sound of a horse champing his bit. Of this insect there are two species,

one colored a light yellow, and the other green. It is not unlike in appearance the ordinary grasshopper with a very fat body.

There are several other singing insects which are highly esteemed, and mostly of the grasshopper family. Some of the sounds emitted are varied strident noises, while others are remarkable for shrillness or clearness. One insect sings only at midnight, and the sound is that of a far away clock; and it has a Japanese name equivalent to midnight chiming.

In the city of Tokio, there are over forty merchants who deal only in singing insects. The commerce itself is of recent origin, although the people have delighted in the training of these insects and have listened to them for many centuries; and it is no uncommon sight, especially among the more conservative Japanese who preserve the ways of the ancient regime, to see little parties of picturesque Japanese in their native costume, extended on mats, drinking tea, and listening with rapt attention to the various sounds emitted from the little bamboo cages placed on stands in front of them. About one hundred years ago, a Japanese named Choso, following the usual Japanese custom, had collected in the season a number of these singing beetles. He placed them in a large vase, and entirely forgot them; and found early the next spring nearly one hundred young beetles had hatched out. He became interested in this fact, and from these one hundred bred a large number the next season. From this accident sprang the breeding of these beetles, and their artificial propagation; so that for a century these insects have been bred for the express purpose of singing, the same as dealers in our own country breed canaries. Gradually this has evolved into a line of commerce which extends over the entire Japanese archipelago.

A BLIND MUSICIAN.

A man who has attracted great notice to himself is Charles D. Evans, of Janesville, Wis. who is now traveling in the West, and his appearance on the street creates a profound impression.

Not only is Mr. Evans a musician of rare talent, but combines with this a high order of inventive genius, which he has brought to bear on his own life in such a manner that he is rapidly acquiring a fortune through his performances upon his remarkable mechanical musical instruments. He has perfected an instrument, or rather a lot of instruments, which are compactly carried in a little four wheeled cart, and which by a species of clock work are so united that they play together in unison or separately as the operator, who is Mr. Evans, may wish. He can produce the effect of a whole orchestra, and it is said the most complicated part is that which produces the effects of the tenor and bass drums. Mr. Evans says himself that he spent several years perfecting this one part. Besides giving unique concerts upon his musical invention, Mr. Evans sings with a sweet tenor voice to the accompaniment of a guitar. He is also a famous violin player. The violin, which he picked up in Philadelphia, bears the faded writing on the inside showing it was made by Giovanni Grancino, Milan, 1721. Grancino was one of the most noted of violin makers, and the present instrument, picked up in a Philadelphia second-hand store, is worth a small fortune.

It is almost wonderful what a man deprived of his sight is often able to do. Not only has Mr. Evans accomplished what is above shown in the musical line, but he has learned to converse in two languages, reads the blind system

printing, writes readily with a lead pencil, and uses the typewriter as well as the most expert stenographers. He also writes in two systems for the blind.

He has a taste for high literature, and beside having read a great deal, he has produced two or three creditable compositions for the violin, and written some poetry. Musical critics who have heard his violin compositions say that the Voice of the Wind is a very pathetic and soothing piece in the minor key. In the Christmas Carol, another piece for the violin, he has very successfully imitated the laughter and play of children at Christmas, the singing of the lullaby, the coming of Santa Claus, the filling of the stockings, and the early carols. This would be a very striking piece written by any one in full possession of his faculties; but produced by a man hampered by blindness, it is a little short of wonderful.

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THE PLANTIN MUSEUM.

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The Plantin Museum is the only old printing-office that is still preserved. It was bought by the city of Antwerp in 1876, from the last member of the founder's family, for 120,000 francs. It is the least imposing of Antwerp's public buildings, giving no hint from the outside of the treasures that are to be seen within. Over the door is a little tablet, bearing the device of Plantin, the founder of the house. It is a hand emerging from clouds holding an open compass which is encircling Plantin's trade-mark "Labore et Constantia," labor and patience. It is an appropriate motto for its user.

Plantin was born in 1514 in France, where he learned and also taught printing and book-binding. In 1548 he moved to Antwerp with his family where in time he gained a reputation of being a skillful decorator. One night he was mistaken by a ruffian for another man and was stabbed, and was forever disabled from working at his trade. In 1555 he had established a printing office, but at that time the conflict between the press, the state, and the church was sharp and bitter. Plantin was accused of printing heretical books and was obliged to flee to Paris. Returning twenty months later he found his office had been destroyed and even his household goods sold at auction. Fortunately he secured the aid of some wealthy men and began again. In four years he had the largest office in the world and had printed over 200 different books.

At Plantin's office was printed what was then the largest volume in the world, and which is even now regarded by modern printers as a great achievement; the Royal Polyglot Bible, in 8 folio parts and containing parallel texts in Latin, Greek, Hebrew and Chaldee, besides numerous beautiful illustrations from copper. This book was the ruin of Plantin. The King of Spain promised to help him, but failed to do as much as he had agreed. Besides this the work was a great deal more expensive than Plantin had figured it would be. The King would not allow the sale of the Polyglot until the Pope had given his consent. This the pope refused to do, but he died soon after and his successor granted the desired permission. Then the book was denounced as heretical and the Inquisition proceeded to forbid its sale until it had been examined, which took some seven years. Meanwhile Plantin had been obliged to mortgage about all he owned, including two-thirds of the book. Soon after this when his fortunes had mended somewhat, the king's soldiers revolted because they were not paid, and Plantin was obliged to pay ransom nine different times to save his office from destruction. Soon after he went to Leyden where he stayed a short time, but again returned to Antwerp, which had in the meanwhile suffered from political changes and was no longer the rich and prosperous city of old.

After Plantin's death his son-in-law continued the business, which in 1696 was the foremost in the world. Then its decline began, and in 1767 it ceased to do further business. The office was fast going to decay. Its dissolution seemed inevitable and it would probably have been sold piecemeal to bric-a-brac collectors had not some public-spirited citizens of Antwerp saved it, and finally induced the city to buy it and preserve it for a museum.

As it stands now the office is not as Plantin left it. His successors made some changes, but the final task of re-arranging the house as a museum was done with excellent taste. Type, presses, and furniture are all in their proper places, seemingly just as they were left by the old-time printers. The tools and implements of daily use surround one, just as they did the original occupants some three hundred years ago. Some of the rooms are hung with splendid portraits of the founder of the house, his wife, family and friends. Beautiful tapestries and antique furniture adorn the other apartments, for Plantin was more than a mere printer; he was an artist and surrounded himself with beautiful examples of the work of his day. In showcases in some of the rooms are exhibited examples of Plantin's work, and that of his engravers.

Facing on a side street are the shops where the books were sold; the shelves still filled with rare and curious volumes. On the walls are posted lists of prohibited books, and laws regarding the sale of books, products of the Plantin office. In the corner is the chair in which the shop-boy sat, and announced the advent of customers to Plantin's daughters, who kept the store. Then there is the room for the correctors of the press, and on the walls portraits of the dignified and scholarly men who edited and supervised the texts that were printed there, and for wages that seem to us ridiculously small, sometimes as little as two or three florins a volume. The printing-room is beyond, with its row of seven rude hand-presses, and type-cases and stands occupying the remainder of the space. To the modern printer it seems impossible that from this meagre equipment such an array of beautiful books could be produced. Yet some of these books are still beautiful specimens of printing and engraving, and far surpass some more modern examples. Besides the printing-office there are two rooms where the type was moulded. Plantin was accustomed to pay the best engravers to cut the moulds for his types, which his workmen moulded. Here are ex-

O book-lovers few places are more interesting than the home of one of the earliest masters of the "art preservative of arts," the Plantin Museum at Antwerp. Very little is known definitely about the invention of printing—some writers giving the credit to one, and some to other aspirants. Gutenberg is commonly spoken of as the first printer from movable types, though his claim is questioned. Unfortunately, none of the implements of the earliest days of the art have been preserved. Gutenberg's house at Mayence is now a beer-shop, and the shops of other old printers have long been destroyed or

hibited the kettles and tools used by them. From an artistic point of view it is doubtful if the work of these early designers of type will ever be equalled; in fact, most of the popular styles of type of the present day are copied from these old designs.

But one of the most interesting rooms in the museum for the book-lover is the library. Plantin's own library of over fourteen thousand volumes contains hundreds that are among the rarest known to bibliomania. And besides the printed books, which contain among others the Bible which was Gutenberg's greatest work, there are preserved the record books, account books, and much of the correspondence of Plantin himself. The more valuable and interesting of these papers have been edited and published by the direction of the museum.

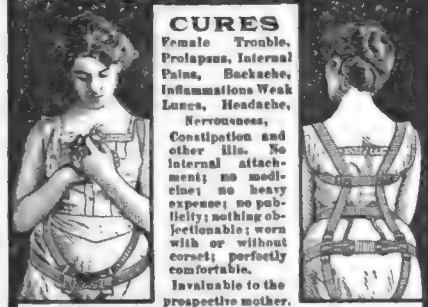
These records are of especial interest. Rich as the museum is in relics of the domestic life of the times, these records give an account of Plantin's life that could never otherwise have been obtained. He was evidently a most methodical man, and in these records are found his correspondence with artists, scholars, and authors, his weekly bills of workmen, his inventories and other business papers; his letters to the King of Spain, urging that worthy to pay his bills; his bills from type-founders and engravers; his appeals to money-lenders and book-sellers who wanted too much discount; his dealings with authors and editors, and other interesting documents. Books in those days were sold at what seems now pitifully low prices, but the cost of manufacture was in proportion. Printers and editors were paid very low wages, to say nothing of authors—who were often only too glad of an opportunity to have their books published. Designing and engraving were also much cheaper and book-sellers were allowed a very small margin of profit.

Plantin is not known as the greatest printer of his time, but as the greatest publisher. In technical points he was outdone by rivals in France and the Netherlands; but as a publisher he stands alone. During his life he brought forth more than sixteen hundred editions. By far the greater part of the books read in the 16th century were theological, and Plantin accordingly caused himself to be appointed the official printer of the books of the Roman Catholic church. A permit was given him by the Pope, but his way was beset with difficulties and after he began to print he was obliged to pay ten per cent. of his receipts to the Roman printer who held the privilege. But he persevered and though kept in financial straits for a lifetime, his successors grew rich on a monopoly which they held for over two hundred years.

It is with deep regret that one passes from the door of the museum, leaving behind the dreamy days of the 16th century to mingle in the throng of the present day once more.

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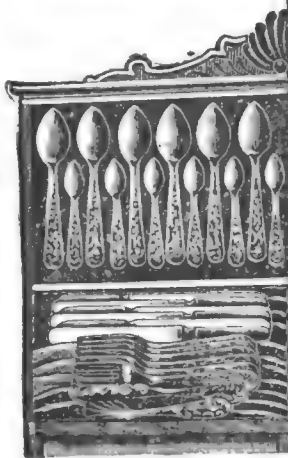
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CHARLES DUDLEY WARNER.

WRITTEN FOR COMFORT.



books, while his personal friends must have their great sense of loss lessened a little by memories of the sunshine of his presence when he was with them.

Charles Dudley Warner left behind him as a record of his literary work a long list of books in which there was none of the cynicism, none of the bitterness, none of the low moral tone that have marked the books of some more popular writers. Not that he was not popular, for he had a large following of admiring readers although none of his books ever created anything like a sensation in the world, nor did they have a phenomenal sale.

This distinguished writer was born in Plainfield, Massachusetts, on the twelfth day of September, in the year 1829. The first thirteen years of his life were spent in Plainfield, and he then went with his widowed mother to Casenovia, New York, to live. He graduated from Hamilton College in the year 1851 and he gave evidence of his superior literary ability at this age by winning the English prize essay the year of his graduation. He contemplated devoting himself to literature and was to have had charge of a literary monthly to be published in Detroit, but the scheme for publishing the magazine was abandoned and Mr. Warner then joined a surveying party on the western frontier.

Later he went to New York City where he studied law, and although he was admitted to the bar and practiced law for several years in Chicago, it was evident that he had more of a literary than a legal "bent," and when the position of assistant editor of the Hartford Press was offered him he accepted it and went to Hartford, Connecticut, where his home was for the remainder of his life. He traveled much abroad and his letters of foreign travel were so interesting that they attracted wide attention and brought the Hartford Courant, the paper in which they were published, into great prominence.

In the year 1890 there appeared in the Courant a series of delightful sketches under the title of "My Summer in a Garden." When the series of sketches were completed Mr. Warner was induced to offer them to several publishers for the purpose of having them appear in book form, but the publishers seemed to "fight shy" of them and after one or two refusals Mr. Warner gave up offering them to publishers. Mr. Warner had for a near neighbor at this time Mrs. Harriet Beecher Stowe, and one time when her famous brother, Henry Ward Beecher, was visiting her she invited Mr. Warner to meet him at her house. Something was said about the book Mr. Warner had refused and Mr. Beecher asked to see the copy of it. Mr. Beecher looked the copy of the book over and became most enthusiastic over it.

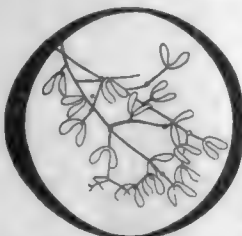
"This book shall be published," he said with decision. "I will write a preface for the book that will make it go."

He did this and the book did "go." It had a large sale and by many it is regarded as Mr. Warner's most delightful book. Lovers of fiction of a very high order have been delighted with his novel "A Little Journey into the World," while his other ventures into the world of fiction have been remarkable for their great purity of thought and graceful style. There are writers who could have been much better spared than Charles Dudley Warner could be spared. He made many friends while he was editor of the "Easy Chair" and the "Editor's Drawer" in Harper's Magazine. He was one of the most intimate friends of Mark Twain who was one of his neighbors in Hartford. It will be remembered that he and Mark Twain joined forces in writing "The Glided Age." But the best work of neither writer appears in this book.

A very large number of American readers will wish this writer whom they loved a joyful welcome at the "Gate Beautiful" through which he has gone into the "singing world of happiness."

ANCIENT CALENDAR.

WRITTEN FOR COMFORT.



N the sixth of December occurs the feast of St. Nicholas, the patron of schoolboys. There is a curious custom in some English schools by which if a boy who is hard pressed calls out "Nic's" he is always entitled to a moment's suspension of hostilities. The name of St. Nicholas has become associated in our minds with Christmas perhaps because on his day it was formerly the custom for parents to give presents secretly to their children. In Italy these presents are hidden in shoes or slippers, and perhaps the children themselves are responsible for the substitution of the more capacious stocking that is now provided for "St. Nick."

So many and so well known are the customs and traditions that cluster about Christmas that most of them need hardly be recalled. On Christmas Eve the oxen are said to fall on their knees in their stalls at midnight, while the bees "sing" in their hives, and miners tell of the ringing of underground bells. It is said that Christmas is a holiday for all but the cooks who are always overworked in preparing the dishes that are reserved for this season of the year. The true Christmas pie should be

of mince meat and oblong in shape to represent the manger at Bethlehem. They are called "coffins" and their spicy taste is in recognition of the offerings made by the wise men of the East. There is an old proverb that says: "For every house in which a mince pie shall be eaten at the Christmas season, the eater shall enjoy a happy month in the coming year." But what of the days in the immediate present?

The Druids held the mistletoe in great veneration and for this pagan association, perhaps, it is not used with the holly and other winter plants in decorating the churches at Christmas tide. It is no less interesting, however, for being relegated to the kitchen where the young people always see to it that a sprig is to be found in some convenient spot.

The lighting of the Yule-Log was formerly believed to sanctify the roof-tree and it must be kindled with clean hands else it will not burn. And woe to the house upon whose hearth the Yule-Log smoulders or dies out. After it has burned throughout the night and the flames begin to flicker, it should be smothered and the fragment kept to light the next year's fire. In the north of England farmhouses the servants lay by a large, knotty block and while this burns on the hearth they are entitled to certain unusual privileges.

Sir Walter Scott says that "those who are born on Christmas or Good Friday have the power of seeing spirits and even of commanding them."

On St. Stephen's Day, the twenty-eighth of December, it was long customary to throw a piece of silver into the trough out of which the horses drank, to ensure prosperity to their owners.

December twenty-eighth, the Holy Innocents Day is considered especially unlucky. An old writer warns us not to "put on a new suit, pare one's nails or begin anything on a Childermas-Day."

Other unlucky days that occur throughout the year are also given to us for our avoidance. They are the first Monday in April, which tradition says is the day on which Cain was born and his brother Abel slain; the second Monday in August, the day on which Sodom and Gomorrah were destroyed; and the last Monday in December, the day on which Judas was born. The day of the week on which the fourteenth of May happens to fall is also unlucky for the remainder of that year.

And so ends our calendar of superstition; let him laugh at its absurdities who will, but let him also remember that discretion is the better part of valor.

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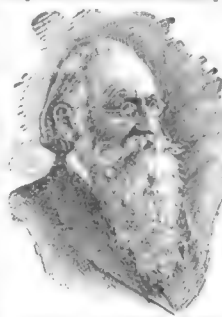
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The Buried City of Honduras.

WRITTEN FOR COMFORT.



A MONOLITH.

beneath centuries of dust, and having an un-revealed history which cannot fail to fascinate the lover of the mysterious, while to the archaeologist its revelations and its mysteries are daily telling more of the wonderful story of a civilization older perhaps than Egypt and of the people who lived and built and died while European man still dwelt in caves and used bits of bone for arrow heads.

In many parts of Honduras are found traces of these people, the Maya people, they are called, but the place most interesting and richest in relics is the city of Copan. Long ago when the Spaniards were searching for gold in Central America and Mexico they found traces of this old civilization, but the accounts which they left of what they had seen are but brief and full of priestly traditions, for the accounts were usually written by the missionaries who tried to interpret all that they found in this land in the light of Bible history.

In a charming valley in the tropics, with high mountains rising on all sides and a river flowing near by, is the buried city of Copan, now being unearthed and brought to light that it may tell us the wonderful story of its history. This work is being done by the Peabody Museum of Harvard College. Copan is like several other buried cities of Yucatan in its general plan, but everything indicates that it was the oldest and most important of the Maya cities. As far back as 1576, a Spanish traveler told of this ruined city and added that the Indians about there seemed to have no traditions concerning it, so that even in the sixteenth century the memory of its glory had passed away.

The valley in which Copan is situated is a level plain about seven miles long by two wide and through the city flows the Copan river. All over the plain are scattered the ruins of the ancient kingdom. Paved streets and an extensive system of canals for sewerage show that the inhabitants of Copan were advanced in the art of city building. In the center of the city, on the bank of the Copan River, stand great mounds of ruins, evidently the temples of the people.

The largest of these is a pyramid in shape and its four sides face the four cardinal points of the compass; but unlike the Pyramids of Egypt this seems not to have been built as a burying place but simply as an elevation on which to erect the places of worship. Where the river has swept away one side of the pyramid layer after layer of ruins are exposed showing that the temples which are now being unearthed are but the last and most highly developed production of a race who abandoned the old and used it as a foundation for the more advanced. Scientists are thus led to believe this valley of Copan was the center of the Maya



COVERED AND UNCOVERED MOUNDS.

civilization and that if the work is allowed to go on far enough the key to this ancient culture will be found there.

In the time of its glory the summit of the pyramid was reached by stairways of the most wonderful dimensions and beautiful workmanship. In 1894 one of these stairways was discovered, covered with the debris of the temple above, which in falling had carried with it the upper part of the stairway itself, but the lower part was found intact, enabling us to form some idea of the grandeur of the scene in the days of its prime. Upon the face of each step are carvings in the hieroglyphs which, if we could read them, would tell us a wonderful history. The stairway is thirty feet wide and ascends to the top of the pyramid 130 feet above. At intervals in the center of the stairs are huge figures in stone, seated upon thrones and attired in elaborate robes, while along the parapets at the sides are other carved figures peering from the mouths of mystic monsters. The whole must have been a most impressive spectacle in the days of the city's splendor. On the summit of this central pyramid (for there are many smaller ones) are temples, not one but many. These are all buildings of great extent and the arched roofs display a thorough knowledge of the use of material as well as decoration. Everything in Copan is decorated. Hardly a stone is found but has its surface covered with figures and representa-

tions of strange and mystic designs. The monoliths, great stones standing alone, display this curious marking, and probably hold upon their surface much of the history of the race.

The tombs of an ancient people often tell much of their history and in Copan many tombs have been found closely connected with the houses of the wealthy. The burying cloths and even the skeletons themselves have crumbled away but many flat instruments, ornaments of obsidian and even pearl were found, beside beautiful specimens of pottery which in some cases were painted with figures of men and women and finished with a polish; all these things point to a high state of culture.

The history of Copan is still a closed book. Many years must pass before we can have an idea of the glory of its people. Perhaps never shall man know the secret of its destruction. Whether in the midst of battle its temples were razed and its inhabitants slain, or whether by the more powerful forces of nature its structures were shaken to the foundations and its people in terror obliged to flee—all this may never be revealed.

Long ere the Spanish of the sixteenth century spread their rule over southern North America, the fame of Copan must have faded, else the ever ambitious missionary or gold hunter would have heard of its glory and the story of its magnificence would have come to us together with the story of its overthrow or its conversion. No such tale, however, has reached us. Copan lived out its days in ignorance of European culture and cruelty. Its people lived and built and died without a knowledge of Spain or Egypt, and to-day we can but begin to read back into its ruins the story of its glory and its mystery.

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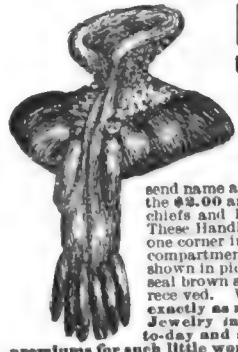
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\$18 to \$35 WEEKLY MEN and WOMEN. Mr. Smith, of Ind., made \$27.50 first 6 months. Albert Hill, of N. J., \$28 first month. Mr. Munoy, of Texas, \$12.50 first 2 hours. Carrie Williams, clerk, \$14 in 6 weeks. Mrs. Hitchcox, \$22 besides housekeeping. Lida Kennedy, \$24.00 while teaching. LET US START YOU—No experience needed. Our agents make over \$47,000.00 last month, supplying the enormous demand for our famous Quaker Bath Cabinet, and appointing agents. Wonderful SELLER. Everybody buys—business men, families and physicians. No scheme, fraud or fake methods. Write Today for Our Proposition. New Plan, etc. FREE. World Mfg. Co., 47 World Bldg., Cincinnati, O. (We recommend above firm as reliable.—Editor.)

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FUR COLLARETTE FREE

Don't pay out your good money for a beautiful Fur Collarette, when we are giving them away free to quickly introduce our Jewelry Novelties. There is no catch or trick about this advertisement, we guarantee to give exactly as we say, and every lady who will sell only 8 of our latest Tiffany style 14k solid gold plated and enameled Brooches will receive our generous offer of this beautiful Opossum Fur Collarette, with 12 doz. white Handkerchiefs, silk embroidered, and a beautiful Ladies' Pocket Book, all leather, knit and silver metal front decorated. We ask no money in advance, if you agree to sell only 8 of these fast selling Brooches at 25c each (regular price 50c) the \$3.00 and we guarantee if you comply with the offer we shall send you with the Handkerchiefs and Pocket Book: this beautiful Opossum Fur Collarette will be given absolutely free. These Handkerchiefs are pure white, pointed, white scalloped edge, 12x12 1/2, floral embroidered in one corner in wash silk. The Pocket Book is all leather, elaborate stampings, nickel frame coin compartment, all around gilt and silver metal front decorated. The Fur Collarette is exactly as shown in picture, it has 16 inch tabs, high storm collar, 10 Black Opossum tails, 2 Persian heads, best seal brown satin lining and padded throughout. Premiums are sent postpaid same day money is received. We are an old and responsible concern, and absolutely guarantee all our premiums exactly as represented. Mrs. M. E. McDonald, Black River, Mich., writes: I sold all the Jewelry in ten minutes. Miss Lottie Sorenson, Marion, Utah, writes: Received premiums to-day and am very much pleased with them. I cannot see how you can give such large presents for such little work. Write to-day, don't miss this rare chance. All who have received these beautiful presents are delighted. NATIONAL MERCANTILE CO., Nicholson Pl. 239 S., St. Louis, Mo.

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KITCHEN CHATS.

CONDUCTED BY AUNT SARAH.



THE Christmas dinner table may be made very attractive and much merriment may be caused by placing a small Christmas tree in the center of the table. The tree should be laden with small gifts, one for each member of the dinner party. Much of the decorative effect is obtained by means of ribbons which may be of any color, although red ribbons carry out the color scheme of the holly berries which are usually in evidence, best of all. A ribbon should be used to tie each gift to the tree, and this ribbon should have one long end of the bow extending to the plate of the recipient of that particular gift. Thus there will be a radiating circle of ribbons reaching from the tree to each plate, and the effect is both novel and charming.

The seat of each guest should be designated by a card at the plate.

The gifts should not be taken from the tree until the dessert has been served, and there is sure to be much guessing with regard to the contents of the various parcels. The wrapping will usually completely hide the nature of the contents, as the smallest article may perhaps look the largest if wrapped in several sheets of tissue paper. These gifts need not be expensive and it is surprising what dainty and really good selections may be made within the limit of a quarter of a dollar each, if one sets out to make such a selection with a degree of care.

There will be no flagging of conversation at a dinner table which is decorated after this fashion, and if the party is a family affair, old and young will be equally interested.

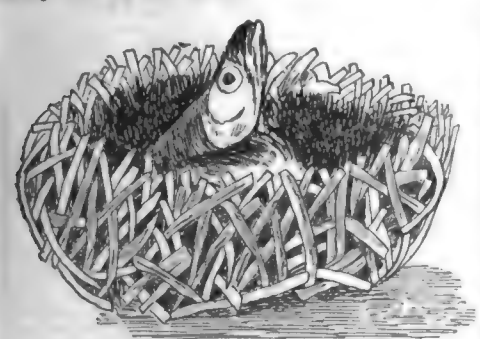
A similar decoration of ribbons is used in connection with a cornucopia arranged as a centerpiece, although in this case the gifts would be hidden from view until drawn. A large doll dressed as Santa Claus should be placed in the center of the table, holding or supporting the cornucopia, and the gifts should be tied with ribbons leading to the plates, as described for the tree. The cornucopia may be as large or as small as required for the number of gifts, and may be made from heavy paper and decorated.

A FAMOUS CHRISTMAS PUNCH.

One bottle raspberries, in liqueur.
One bottle strawberries, in liqueur.
One bottle cherries, brandied.
Six bottles St. Julien claret.
Three bottles good rum.
Three dozen oranges.
Three dozen lemons.
One pound of sugar.
Four quart siphons of seltzer.

Cut two oranges and one lemon into small cubes and extract the juice from the remainder. These cubes are to float in the punch bowl with the cherries, strawberries and raspberries. Add sugar and when dissolved add claret and rum and last of all the seltzer. This recipe will serve a large number of guests, but it is easily divided so as to make a smaller quantity if desired.

We have been requested to give recipes for frying oysters and smelts, and our illustrations show some of the forms in which the latter may be fried and served.



JULIENNE POTATO NEST.

The potato nest is made of finely shredded raw potatoes which are called Julienne potatoes. For Julienne potatoes the potatoes should be cut and left standing in cold water for two hours before frying; they are then drained, dried between towels and fried in hot, deep fat, in a wire basket. To make the potato nest, place some of the finely shredded potato, after it has been dried between towels, into a four inch fine wire strainer, simply lining it. Then into this lined strainer set a three inch strainer of the same shape; this will keep the potatoes in shape while they are frying, which takes only a minute. Set the two strainers into the hot fat. When nicely browned remove from strainers and the potatoes will be shaped exactly like the small strainer, or like a nest. Repeat the operation until as many nests have been made as there are people to serve.

If a luncheon is to be given, the nests could be made the day before and simply put into the oven for a moment before serving, and so lessen some of the work of the day on which the lunch is to be served.

Nests of this kind might be used for fried smelts, scallops, or for creamed chicken, though

if anything is served which has a sauce, or is moist, there is a chance of the potatoes becoming soft and so losing their shape. It is better to serve something dry in them, and then to have a tartar sauce served in an individual dish to each guest.

FRIED OYSTERS.

Parboil large oysters by placing them in an enamelled saucepan and letting them simmer on the top of the stove until the edges begin to curl. Drain and dry between the folds of a towel. Season with salt and pepper and dip in flour, then in egg and then in fine, dry bread crumbs. Place six oysters in a wire frying basket and fry one minute in hot deep fat. Drain on brown paper and serve on a folded napkin, or upon one of the fancy lace paper circles, that can be bought for thirty cents a dozen. Garnish with parsley and lemon fans.

In order to know whether or not the fat is of the right temperature, test it with a piece of bread from the inside of the loaf. Put the piece in and count forty, (which will take about one-half of a minute) and if the bread is then of the right color, the fat is of the right temperature; if too brown let the fat cool a little.

FRIED SMELTS.

Bone smelts by cutting a slit the entire length of under side, laying the fish open. With a sharp knife remove back bone. Start with tail, and roll the fish up toward the head. When the head is reached let it lie on top of the roll and with small wooden tooth picks skewer, so that the roll will stay in shape. This looks like a lady's muff, with the openings on either side and head on top. Dip in crumbs, egg and crumbs again. Place in basket and fry in hot fat about four minutes. The flesh is rolled up into so many thicknesses that it is necessary to cook it at least four minutes in order to be sure it is thoroughly cooked. Then place one smelt into each potato basket, allowing the head to stand up in center.

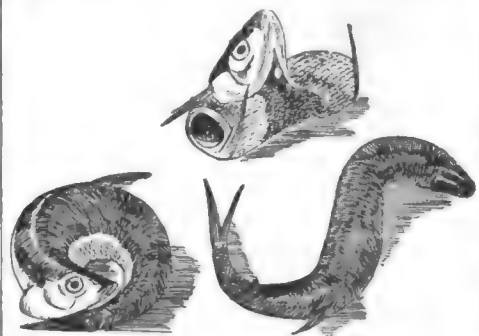
Other ways of serving smelts are to skewer them into various shapes (after they have been boned) so that they keep their natural shape. Open the mouth and twist the tail around to go into it, and skewer to keep there. Or twist them to look as though they were moving. After being fried the skewers must be carefully removed.

TARTAR SAUCE.

To Mayonnaise dressing add one-half tablespoon each of capers, olives, pickles and parsley, finely chopped, to each half-cupful of dressing.

PHILADELPHIA RELISH.

Mix two cups shredded cabbage, two green peppers finely chopped (leaving out seeds), one teaspoon celery seed, one-fourth teaspoon mus-



FRIED SMELTS.

tard seed, one-half teaspoon salt, one-fourth cup brown sugar, and one-fourth cup vinegar.

We have been asked for a recipe for a steamed fruit pudding that is light and not rich, one that the children can eat without danger.

STEAMED FRUIT PUDDING.

Scald two cups milk and stir constantly while adding gradually one cup Vitex. As soon as the mixture thickens remove from fire, add one-half cup molasses, two eggs well beaten, two tablespoons melted butter, one teaspoon each of soda and salt, and one cup dates stoned and cut in pieces. Turn into a buttered mould and steam three hours. Serve with

MESSINA SAUCE.

Mix one-fourth cup butter, one cup sugar, yolks of two eggs, grated rind of one lemon and juice of two lemons. Cook in a double boiler until the mixture thickens, stirring occasionally.

Orange Lily cures Leucorrhoea, Ulceration, Displacement, Painful Periods. For a free trial address, Mrs. H. C. Fretter, Detroit, Mich.

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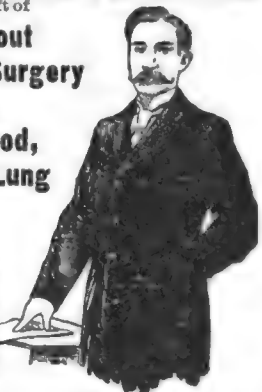
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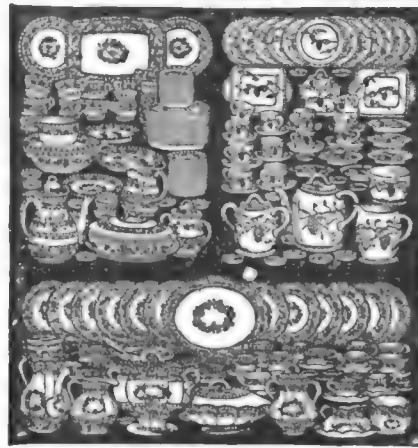
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TALKS WITH GIRLS.

CONDUCTED BY
COUSIN MARION.

Well, dears, did you all have a good time Thanksgiving, and have plenty of turkey and good things? Did you? That's nice. And you ought to be thankful, for lots of people in this big country of ours didn't have. Now comes Christmas and may it be a very merry one to you all.

With these few words of good will and cheer, let us get to your letters, and the first one in the pile is from Brown Eyes, Baltimore, Md., who wants to know if it is right to offer a gentleman refreshments when he calls. Certainly it is, and every man likes that kind of hospitality. She asks also about asking some people to visit her, who have been nice to her, but who are much better fixed than she is. Ask them by all means. It isn't what you give people that makes them think most of you, but the manner of your giving. Write a note to the young lady thanking her, and in it ask her to visit you.

Three Girls, Townsville, Texas.—It is quite proper for young people to exchange locks of hair, but it is very old fashioned, and very silly. (2) Yes, tell the young man he is good looking in return for his saying as much for you. (3) A lady railroad agent may carry on a conversation with a strange business man, but it should be very formal, until she has seen him enough to know who he is. (4) Give it up. Nobody knows what Love is. It ought to be a condition rather than a sensation, though I don't know whether it is or not.

Daffodil, Union City, Ind.—Choose for yourself what you think would be a nice Christmas present for the "dear" young man. (2) I don't think if I were you I would wear the young man's photograph on a button.

Hayflower, Pineville, Ky.—A young man that can "pop" and won't "pop" ought to be made to "pop," and if you can talk half as well as you can write, you ought to be able to bring him to his senses easily enough. Show him this little item and look square into his bashful eyes when he finishes reading it. If that doesn't "fetch him," you had better send him down to Frankfurt to the Institute for the Feeble Minded.

Learnall, Charleston, S. C.—Women are better out of politics than in. (2) John D. Rockefeller is from Cleveland, Ohio, where he began life as a boy in a grocery store. He opened an oil store and gradually got hold of the entire oil business of the country, developing it into the Standard Oil Company. He is reputed to be worth \$200,000,000. (3) "To Have and To Hold" has had the largest sale of any current novel.

Lilybell, Ayr, Ind.—I think you will do better as a happy married woman than as a school teacher. You know a school teacher shouldn't spell "ambitious" "ambitious."

Virginia Olive, San Francisco, Cal.—Whether you get the young man of your choice or not, do not marry the man you do not love, even though you do love your parents dearly and they want to wreck your life for the money the man has.

Eva Claire, Neihart, Mon.—It seems to be customary for young men to take ladies home from church though they have not taken them there. I guess it is all right. (2) Stenography cannot be well learned in less than a year, and longer than that if learned by mail. (3) There isn't any "great-est American artist."

Luella, DuBois, Neb.—The home is where the heart is. Marry the one you love.

X. Y. Z., Chicago, Ill.—As I understand it, the authorities of the Catholic Church are the ones to say how the forms of marriage are to be carried out. Ask a priest about it.

Lillian, Houston, Texas.—I do not know anything about the Texas school laws. Before you try to become a teacher, it will be well for you to learn them there.

Perilla, Solomonsville, Ariz.—It would be quite impossible to suggest a way to a practical education as you seek it. You must consult a teacher in your own town. (2) Visiting cards are left at houses where you find the people at home as a reminder to them of your call. It is not necessary in small places, but is in the cities where the custom originated.

Mikado Sisters, Leipsic, Ohio.—Better wait till you are out of your teens before accepting the young man.

Brown Eyes, Cleburne, Texas.—I don't know of such a firm. The best way is to write direct. Many houses are glad to pay commission for goods sold.

Pansy, Keeney, Kans.—Wedding cakes have no particular form, and you may decorate them as you please. (2) Do not use starch on your black sun-bonnet, but instead use a mild solution of gum arabic. (3) A dressing sack is to be worn in the house at any time, usually in the morning.

Leora, Los Angeles, Cal.—A girl should not marry before she is twenty, nor a man before he is twenty-five, but marrying people pay no heed and marry as they please. (2) It is better for the girl that she does not have her pictures taken with a young man. (3) A young man should not wait at all to declare his love, but say so as soon as he is in love.

W. Va. Girl, Duke, W. Va.—Girls of fifteen should not accept young men's attentions. Aching Heart, Mt. Gilead, Ohio.—Don't forget the young man at all. Let him go away, but both of you be true to each other, and it will all come out right after a while.

Carnation, Mounmouth, Ill.—There is no cure for a little sister who "sneaks around" to hear what you and your callers are talking about except a spanking. (2) It is not a girl's place to ask the man to correspond. (3) Ask your doctor.

Bessie, Lincoln, Tenn.—If you don't know what to say to the young man who asks to be your sweetheart it is very plain you do not know enough to have a sweetheart. Wait five years or so.

Marie, Gilboa, Ohio.—If you want to be miserable all your life marry the man who is a drunkard at nineteen.

Nettie, Ottawa, Ohio.—Do not marry a man having consumption.

Primrose, Bristol, Me.—If the man won't talk to you, go with one who will. (2) I fancy there is not much danger in sitting on the door steps after dark, if not too long after. (3) The men of your own family should protect you from the attentions of the insolent man you mention.

Blue Eyed Maib, Springdale, Mo.—The young man should not squeeze your hand "real hard" in the dance. (2) "You're all right, but you won't do." is only harmless slang as far as I know. (3) Don't marry a man younger than yourself. (4) Whether a person with a weak heart from inflammatory rheumatism should marry or not is a question for the doctors to settle.

Pansy, Whitewater, Wis.—Don't marry anybody unless you want to, and not always then. It's a queer mother who wants her daughter to marry a drunkard.

Amelia, Medicine Lodge, Kans.—The young man should give you another ring for the one he has lost. (2) No.

Brown Eyes, Mt. Vernon, Mo.—In my judgment not only "from a mental and moral standpoint," but from a legal point of view in most states, the marriage of cousins is wrong. Don't do it.

Anna G., Palmer, Kans.—Write to any of the Correspondence Schools advertised in COMFORT for the information you seek.

Blue Bell, Metasville, Ga.—It is no especial disgrace for a girl to kiss a man but it is not ladylike or nice. And the right kind of a man will tell you so.

Unknown, Tidouste, Pa.—Use your own pleasure about giving the man a Christmas present and make your own selection. You can't miss it very far.

Pansy Blossom, Fargo, N. D.—The poems do very well for a child. Give her all the good poetry to read and study, and let her write as little as possible until she is ten years older.

There dears, all your questions are answered and may you have a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. COUSIN MARION.

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We have a great quantity of perfumery in cases which we wish to give to our friends without expense. It is most delicate and lasting and combines the various perfumes and fragrance of the flowers. Placed in a bureau drawer will impart delicious odor to all clothing, kerchiefs, etc. Sweeter than the mignonne. Send us four cents pay for shipping expenses and will send it with copy of our illustrated bargain book.

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HYPNOTISM

DOES IT PAY? FREE!

That is the chief question for the practical reader. Everybody admits that it is an interesting and wonderful science. It is the only science existing that penetrates to the hidden and inscrutable recesses of thought. Its grasp is on the mind as that of the physical sciences is on MATTER. It deals with the unseen, the intangible, the mysterious. But, you ask, does it pay to learn it? Does it pay to know it? Does it pay to acquire its methods and practice it as an art or calling? I at once answer you, yes, emphatically, YES. Just apply to it the same tests that you would to any other business, craft or calling. Why do you study any of them? Is it not to earn a living, to provide for your family, to secure an independence, to obtain friends, distinction and happiness for yourself and your loved ones? Certainly; these are the objects in life that men strive and toil for. And I tell you that Hypnotism offers a surer and speedier way to obtain them than any other means open to the rising generation. This is true, and I will give you the best proof of it. I will give you for the asking a copy of MY FREE BOOK, which is entitled, "A Key to the Mysteries of Hypnotism," but is likewise a triumphant answer to the question, "Does it pay?" This is a book of elegant appearance, richly illustrated on every page, and is certainly the nicest book ever given away free in the interests of science. It cost me much time, labor and money, but it will cost you nothing whatever but the trouble of writing for it, even on a postal card, if need be. As the title implies, my book tells you all about Hypnotism, its history, development, methods, phenomena and uses, but flashing out of every line you will also learn the secret of how it pays. In the first place, it is easy and quick to learn, easier than any other study which forms the basis of a livelihood or profession. Anybody who can merely read can master it quickly, and then will never forget it. Surely that is a paying feature to the youth starting out in life, to the bread-winner who desires a change for the better, or anybody needing an honorable and lucrative profession. Compare it, if you like, with the years spent in college to learn law or medicine, or the years of apprenticeship to a trade or business. But Hypnotism also PAYS PROMPTLY in this one grand feature, it gives you control of other minds and direction of their wills. You may not at once see what that amounts to. Send for and read my book, FREE, and you will find that this mental dominion is a passport to social favor, to public reputation, to advancement in position, and to the highest success in business. Control of other minds is not only thus a fortune-winner, but my book will show you how it works to banish pain, to cure every known disease or bad habit, to correct either moral or intellectual frailty, to win ardent love and devoted friendship, to benefit, to bless and to entertain all around you, not only for instant gain, but for a continuance of health, prosperity and happiness. Now, if I prove all this, won't you admit that IT PAYS? Well, my book proves it. It costs you nothing to get it. It is a master-key to all the treasure vaults of life. Write for it this very hour, and learn the knowledge that all this world's a-seeking. IT IS FREE. Address, Prof. L. A. HARRADEN, Jackson, Michigan.

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NEW ZEALAND.

WRITTEN FOR COMFORT.



A MAORI GUIDE.

MORE than half way around the world from us lies New Zealand, one of the least known of England's large colonies. It is a group of islands, two large and many small ones and its area is about equal to that of Great Britain.

Although New Zealand has been known to the civilized world since 1642 it was not until 1842 that it became a part of the British Empire. In 1770 Captain Cook made a careful examination of the coast of this land and the charts which he made with great care are still in use by navigators.

After the settlement of Australia the islands to the southeast of the new colony began to be known because of the excellent seal fishing and whaling grounds along its shore. As in most new lands of the earth, it was trade which stimulated discovery. The islands were found to be excellent for the production of flax and gum and its forests were rich in useful timber. At length England was convinced that if she wished to have any influence in this far southern land she must proclaim sovereignty over the islands. This she did, completing her arrangement only a few weeks before the French were ready to do the same. What would have been the history of New Zealand had England delayed, it were hard to determine. England made an excellent treaty with the native Maoris, in which she guaranteed them the undisturbed possession of their lands, together with their ancient rights and their freedom, in return for which the native chiefs gave up their rights of sovereignty. This treaty has been held inviolate by both parties, and no land has ever been acquired from the natives except by purchase. Much of the land is rented to Englishmen by the natives, and we find many small farms and holdings, but no vast estates as in other English colonies. The native chiefs are allowed to sit in the Council and representatives are sent to the colonial House of Parliament. England may well feel herself repaid for her treatment of the Maoris, for they have shown themselves an intelligent and industrious people, accepting the improvements of civilization and proving themselves valuable citizens.

South Island is skirted, along its western coast, by a grand mountain range rising 12,000 feet above the sea which is a fair rival to the Alps in its beauty of scenery. Magnificent forests cover the sides of these mountains, and to the east the land slopes off in rolling plains, unrivalled in all the world for fertility.

Separated from South Island by a strait fifteen or twenty miles wide, is the North Island, which though smaller, is the more important island. Nearly every part is well fitted for habitation, for no high mountains interrupt its surface and the climate is mild and agreeable.

The central part of this island is one of the most wonderful volcanic districts in the world. In a narrow strip not more than seventy-five miles wide are contained geysers, hot springs, pools of boiling mud, sulphur waters, and nearly every other kind of spring known to have curative properties. There are two active volcanoes in the district, Tongariro and Ruapehu. These rise to a height equal to some of our Rocky Mountain peaks. Their eruptions, though frequent are not severe, and instead of lava, clouds of steam and gallons of boiling water are ejected. It is as if a giant's kettle had boiled over. This whole region is full of surprises and wonders. Wandering among the luxuriant growth of tree ferns and palm trees one comes suddenly upon a steaming pool of mud where a group of Maoris are taking their daily plunge, as you might see the sojourners of an American seaside resort taking their daily dip. Unlike our Yellowstone Park there



A MAORI HOME.

are no stretches of desert land, no lack of trees and undergrowth; on the contrary the vegetation of the southern islands seems to thrive upon the moist atmosphere and the frequent volcanic eruptions do not destroy it.

This district is thickly inhabited by the Maoris and they understand perfectly the curative properties of the waters, so that many of them earn an excellent livelihood by giving medical advice to the many invalids who go there for treatment.

They assure these visitors that their waters contain a cure for any ill and surely they themselves are a good illustration of the excellent effect of their treatment, for they are a healthy, rugged race. The New Zealand hot springs are becoming noted even in Europe for their wonderful effect upon rheumatic troubles, and this volcanic district seems likely to become as noted a health resort as Saratoga. Were New Zealand within a week's travel of London it would doubtless be soon overrun with the overflow of that great metropolis. Its climate is almost perfect. Far enough from the equator to be free from the fierce heat of summer it receives plentiful rainfall; its plains and mountain sides may give occupation and

support to thousands of people. Happy New Zealand, fortunate for her that she lies so far away from the great centers of the world, that a month or more must elapse in reaching her. Her growth will probably be slow and steady, her wealth of resources will be developed naturally and she will hold her place with the colonies of Great Britain as one of its richest and most self-sustaining.

MAN-AFRAID-OF-HIS-BOOKS.

WRITTEN FOR COMFORT.

THE

SUPERSTITIOUS fear of written characters that is entertained by savage or ignorant people is illustrated by the following anecdote:

In a certain little Western town there lives a man who lacks even the rudiments of an education. He was a miner—a laborer; but a few years ago he found a vein of ore which he sold for a small amount, and then established himself in a small way in the mercantile business. At first he kept no books, trusting entirely to his memory for a record of his transactions; but a railroad was recently built into his town, and his business increased to such an extent that he found himself compelled to employ a book-keeper.

The book-keeper, at the end of his first day's work, emptied the cash-drawers, entered the amount in his books and then locked cash and books in the safe. The next morning he was surprised to find that ten dollars were missing. In no way could he account for the shortage, other than to suppose that his employer had taken the money out during the night. To make sure he went into the store to speak with him about it.

"When you take money from the safe, Mr. Blank," he said, "you should tell me of it, or leave a note stating the amount so that I can enter it in the books."

"How do you know that I took any money out of the safe?" his employer asked, suspiciously.

"Why, the books tell me that you took out ten dollars last night."

"They do, eh?" snorted the employer. "Well, young man, you just march back into the office and throw them blamed books in the fire. Next thing I know they'll be telling you what I did with that ten dollars, and that's nobody's business but mine."

IN Norwegian Mines a singular custom prevails in paying the weekly wages of the men. They present themselves on Saturday evening to the inspector, who, having settled accounts with each, bids him turn round, and writes in white chalk, upon his back, the sum due him. Thus numbered, the man goes to the cashier, who also turns him around to look at the figures, and pays him without a word.

GLOVES are mentioned as far back as Homer's time. They have been used by almost all civilized nations from that time to this, and have been by many considered of great importance in matters of etiquette. They have been used as a pledge of contracts—as a challenge, and even a lady's pledge of favor when presented by her to her chivalrous knight, and worn by him in his helmet. They have been made of almost every conceivable material, but in modern times the greatest proportion are manufactured from buckskin and kid. In the manufacture of the latter, the French excel, and in buckskin the Americans produce the best. It is estimated that the French use annually in the manufacture of gloves 4,500,000 skins.

AN ASTHMA CURE AT LAST.

It gives us great pleasure to announce the discovery of a positive cure for Asthma, in the wonderful Kola Plant, a new botanic product found on the Congo River, West Africa. The cures wrought by it in the worst cases, are really marvelous. Sufferers of twenty to fifty years' standing have been at once restored to health by the Kola Plant. Among others many ministers of the gospel testify to its wonderful powers. Rev. J. L. Combs, of Martinsburg, W. Va., was perhaps the worst case, suffering from the Kola Plant after fifty years' suffering. Mr. Alfred C. Lewis, Washington, D. C., Editor of the Farmers' Magazine, gives similar testimony as do many others. To prove to you beyond doubt its wonderful curative power the Kola Importing Co., No. 1164 Broadway, New York, will send a large case of the Kola Compound free by mail to every reader of COMFORT who suffers from any form of Asthma. They only ask in return that when cured yourself you will tell your neighbors about it. You should surely try it, as it costs you nothing.

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If you suffer from Epilepsy, Fits, Falling Sickness, St. Vitus's Dance, or Vertigo, have children, relatives, friends or neighbors that do so, or know people that are afflicted, my New Treatment will immediately relieve and PERMANENTLY CURE them, and all you are asked to do is to send for my FREE TREATMENT and try it. It has CURED thousands where everything else failed. Will be sent in plain package absolutely free, express prepaid. My Illustrated Book, "Epilepsy Explained," FREE by mail. Please give name, AGE and full address. All correspondence professionally confidential.

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For years the cry has gone up from hundreds and thousands of men, young and old, for a remedy that would rid them of the terrible result of early follies or excesses, or of the overwork and worry that sap the physical vitality.

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It remained for the eminent French authority, Prof. Jules Laborde, to conduct scientific inquiry into the cause and cure of Lost Vitality, Sexual Weakness, Spermatorrhea, Epilepsy, Impotency, Small Parts, and the world today acknowledges the supremacy of the wonderful remedy "CALTHOS," recognizing the commercial value of Prof. Laborde's discovery, secured the sole American rights for "CALTHOS," and through its agency thousands of men who suffered from sexual diseases and enfeebling nervous maladies have been restored to health and the virile powers of perfect manhood.

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The style was invented in England many years ago by William Morris, the celebrated London artist. He built it from a knowledge of anatomy. He was also a famous designer of artist furniture. It is therefore called the **Morris Chair**. It is made of the finest Oak and so arranged by a simple device in the back that it can be adjusted to either a lounging or upright position. It is the most useful and popular Easy Chair on the market, either in Europe or America to-day. It is finely upholstered and tufted. Every one needs at least one of these Chairs in their home, no matter be it humble or great. They seem to just fit the tired body after a busy day's work, in fact it fits one's every mood. We have ordered many thousands of these Chairs direct from an immense furniture factory and although the Morris Chairs sell at many stores from \$15.00 to \$50.00 each, we are giving these Chairs away as Premiums for selling our Remedies.

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each, which we trust you with and we will send you a pair of these elegant Nottingham Lace Curtains, each Curtain is nine feet long so you get six yards of Curtains in the pair, and as they are four feet wide for the two, they gather up nicely and furnish an elegant drapery for even the very broad windows; in fact in many instances one pair would do for several windows, and just what any one needs to adorn the home with. Every one of taste will tell you that there is nothing which "dresses up" a room so much as a pair of lace curtains. The finest effects are obtained by these draperies. They show from the outside as well as from the inside. They are of the real Italian pattern and formerly sold as high as six or eight dollars a pair. They are delivered free to you, all charges paid. Don't fail to send for the six Plasters to-day, as soon as you sell them and send us the \$1.50 you get the curtains and learn all about the Morris Chair inducement. It will surprise you in liberality. We do not give the \$15.00 Chair for selling only \$1.50 worth of goods as some firms profess to do, but we make you the most liberal, honest and straightforward offer ever put out. We are paying our agents over two dollars for selling only one dollar's worth of goods in order to get them advertised. We want to prove there is a sure prevention and cure for **Lame Back, La Grippe, Coughs, Colds, Pneumonia, Rheumatism, etc., etc.** Send for the six Plasters to-day. Address, **THE GIANT PLASTER CO., Box L, Augusta, Maine.**

What Some of Our Patrons Say About Our Reliability and Standing.

A NINE YEARS' TEST.

GALENA, ILLINOIS, Oct. 15th, 1900.
TO THE GIANT CO., AUGUSTA, MAINE.
GENTLEMEN: Do you realize I have been selling your remedies for the past nine years? After acting thus as your agent for this long period it is not flattery when I say to you that no business house exists that can surpass your own in honesty and fair dealings—even more, generosity to its patrons. Not one jar or the slightest cause for complaint is surely evidence beyond question in my nine years' dealings with you. May you live long to enjoy the good you are doing is the wish of
Yours truly,
FANNIE AUBUCHON.

A TEN YEARS' TEST.

MUNCIE, INDIANA, Oct. 10th, 1900.
GENTLEMEN: After ten years of successful work for you I can truthfully say that you have more than done as you agreed during my long period of selling your famous Ointment Remedies. There has been nothing taken away the joy that came to me from getting my first box of Ointment. As for Premiums I have received so many and such nice ones, too, that I cannot possibly enumerate them. They were all fine and perfectly satisfactory. I consider your firm one of the best in existence and although I have had many flattering offers to work for other concerns, I have always been true to The Giant Ointment Co., for they have been honest and faithful in carrying out their promises to me. Wishing you continued prosperity, I remain,
Yours truly,
EMMA E. BRANNON.



CONDUCTED BY REGULUS.



THE Astrological figure for the Lunation which occurs in the evening of the 21st of December and which is the basis of our deductions for the beginning weeks of the New Year, shows the last degrees of Cancer rising, with the middle degrees of Aries culminating. All the planets are below the horizon except Neptune which is nearly two hours high above the eastern horizon near the cusp of the 12th house. The luminaries come together in the 6th house just between Jupiter and Saturn and nearly opposed to Neptune; Herschel is close to Mercury in the 5th house where also Venus is found; and Mars is on the cusp of the 3rd house near the square of Mercury and Herschel, but favorably aspecting the luminaries and Saturn.

The Sun and Moon are leaving the benefic Jupiter and approaching Saturn, indicative of more than the average sickness among the people, especially the poorer classes, during the first three or four weeks of the year. Particular caution is suggested for the troubles peculiar to the respiratory organs. Coughs and colds will be unusually prevalent and the stomach will be easily disordered. The season prompts more than usual care as to temperance, for unwise indulgences in stimulants will be attended with greater mischief than usual. Surgery will become an important factor in these days in remedying existing evils. It is apprehended that there will be an increase of suffering among the poorer classes from exposure to cold and inclement seasons and the benevolently disposed will have unusual opportunities to assist their less fortunate brethren. Malignic combinations in the 5th caution those in charge of schools against fires and violent excitement among pupils and may cause the closing of schools in some sections for avoidance of eruptive diseases. Some unusual excitement is likely in administration of school matters or the misdeeds of some in charge of schools. Fire threatens mischief to government buildings and those in charge should be constantly vigilant.

Some differences arise in international matters over unusual action of nations believed to be friendly. Canadian matters engage renewed diplomatic efforts. In most other respects the promises of the figure do not detract from the general good indicated for the nation by the more important astrological figures of the immediate past.

CELESTIAL CALENDAR FOR JANUARY, 1901.

JANUARY. 1-Tuesday. The very early hours of the day are the poorest but as the day advances conditions are much improved. It does not need enough, however, to invite much merry making. Gratification and pleasure are sought in the pleasures of the day, but unpleasant consequences unless the greatest moderation be exercised. Association for purposes of business not concerned with the elegant or artistic in life will have best chances for satisfactory results; do not take the time for any matrimonial engagement, especially if born about the 2d of March, 4th of June, 5th of September, or the 6th of December, of past years. Persons in the music, dramatic and artistic pursuits generally born at the times indicated, are in adverse circumstances at about this time or have more than the usual embarrassment in their undertakings in these passing days, nor should they now enter into any important venture in life.

2-Wednesday. Adverse conditions rule this day as well as yesterday for the persons and business ventures therein indicated; do not expect satisfactory results in any of the nice engagements. Some very unfortunate marriages will occur at this time and it is peculiarly fruitful in producing elopements among the wayward. Have no business engagements with persons in government office or with large corporations. Dramatic matters are under a cloud and managers in such walks have strange trials.

3-Thursday. Hold the purse strings securely on this day, nor make any purchase of merchandise for trade; sign no written obligation concerning money, nor apply for favor to persons in high stations in life, nor to banks or moneyed institutions of any kind; make no engagements with persons in the literary callings, with contractors, builders, excavators or mining officers or employees.

4-Friday. Mixed conditions prevail, more suited for engagements with persons in the mechanical callings than others, provided the mid-day hours be employed; give no cause for offense in thy dealings with persons in authority; avoid thy landlord and do not be disappointed if baffled in the majority of thine efforts for the day.

5-Saturday. Fair success will be met in the general transactions of the day, but it is not a good time for commencing any undertaking of magnitude; the time is more likely to be cold, cheerless and apathetic and does not conduce to happy conclusions.

6-Sunday. Essentially a day for rest.

7-Monday. This week begins more auspiciously. Choose the day for urging the elegant pursuits; push business vigorously but give the preference to dealings in fancy goods, dress materials, jewelry and furnishings, all in the forenoon; sign no deeds in the forenoon nor look for creditable results from mental efforts.

8-Tuesday. The morning hours should be given the preference for all engagements with banks and persons of wealth and refinement, also for purchase of goods for trade; ask no favor from thine employer during the middle hours, but as the afternoon advances let all engagements pertaining to houses and lands be pushed to the utmost; mental efforts in the evening and night hours will be fruitful of good to all persons except those born about the 29th of March, 30th of June, 1st of October or 30th of December, of past years. The latter persons have more than usual annoyance just now in matters of writing or account or are adversely affected in the nervous system. Many of them are troubled with neuralgic pains or the nervous forces show impairment.

9-Wednesday. Avoid contention and disputes during the first two-thirds of this day; have no surgical operation performed, especially about the abdomen or bowels and seek no favor from military men or government officers.

10-Thursday. Those who speculate with their money on this day need not expect much profit but are more likely to meet losses; do not buy goods for trade nor seek favors from banks or moneyed men; beware of purchases for mere gratification as the impulse will be towards extravagance.

11-Friday. Improve the early and late hours of this day for the major affairs of the time but have unusual care from 11 o'clock until 2 in the day when routine matters only should have attention; baffling conditions prevail in the noon hours when no business connected with houses or lands should be transacted.

12-Saturday. Again the noon hours are the poorest when no favor should be expected from persons in authority; the early forenoon and the afternoon should have the best efforts.

13-Sunday. An excellent Sabbath day in which thine association with the aged and with persons of wealth or high in church circles will be both agreeable and profitable.

14-Monday. Begin the day early; do correspondence and urge all manner of business with vigor; deal with bookkeepers, publishers, stationers and all engaged in the intellectual pursuits; deal in machinery, chemi-

cal, drugs, tools and combustibles; take initiatory steps and urge proceedings in litigation. The time is more fortunate than usual for persons born about the 3rd of January, May, or July of the 5th of November of past years, as such persons are likely to be now full of hope and encouragement at the condition of their affairs; and have new ventures or improved opportunities now offering which promise well for them. On the other hand persons born about the 4th of March, 3rd of June, or the 5th of September or December, of past years, are more likely to be in the midst of some unusual excitement or controversy over the insidious attacks upon the health, particularly as relates to the respiratory organs and liver and bowels. Such persons should exercise greatest care at this time for avoidance of coughs and colds and should study patience and forbearance in their dealings with mankind; being careful not to be overhasty in action, overbearing in deportment nor intolerant of control in their walks in life, in these passing weeks, as there is danger that business associations may be foolishly severed under temporary excitement.

15-Tuesday. Crowd all affairs to the utmost of this day, especially such as require dealings with officials or persons in authority.

16-Wednesday. Literary ventures are somewhat detrimental during this forenoon, but the noon hours are favorable for general affairs. The evening invites caution against disputes and controversies. Fires in government buildings are to be looked out for and explosions and accidents from machinery and on railways threaten at this time.

17-Thursday. The day is indifferent until the afternoon when conditions prevail more than ordinarily favorable for the elegant pursuits and favorable consideration by persons of wealth or in financial dealings; crowd all general matters the harder the day advances.

18-Friday. Begin early and improve every moment in the pursuit of art, music, and in the elegant avocations generally; deal in fancy goods and engage in business pertaining to decoration, adornment, furnishings and dramatic goods or entertainments; buy goods for trade in the early hours of the day and have money transactions of consequence, all during the forenoon; the afternoon is less to be depended upon and is likely to arrest progress in matters in hand or baffle results in things then newly begun.

19-Saturday. Be early astir for urging the mechanical and chemical pursuits and for dealings in metals, machinery, horses and cattle; consult thy dentist and travel.

20-Sunday. This day is unusually benevolent, particularly inviting communion with the poet and literary; the mental faculties will be remarkably quickened and appreciation of literary productions quite noticeable.

21-Monday. Choose this day for removal, travel, dealing with public officers and large corporations.

22-Tuesday. This is the merchant's own day and an especially fortunate one for every honorable pursuit; buy goods for trade, speculate in securities, if thy nativity likewise favor, and seek money accommodations; make collections and deal with banks.

23-Wednesday. A day of increased mental excitement; the mind is likely to be rash; keep a civil tongue; be slow to take offense and be careful in handling fire, steam, chemicals, and the brute creation at large.

24-Thursday. Look out for the pennies on this day, for conditions invite money shrinkages and losses or extravagant expenditures; do not buy stock in trade.

25-Friday. The early and late hours are the best; the middle hours being peculiarly inimical for any dealings concerning lands, mining, agricultural products, house-furnishings, and all decorative artistic goods; do not depend upon the day for any musical effort or for painting or any dramatic or social undertaking; adverse for courtship or marriage and threatening to harmony among artists; the evening gives improvement.

26-Saturday. The forenoon should be given preference for business enterprises of consequence; the afternoon is mischievous and the evening is superior, when favor may be sought from persons of wealth and station.

27-Sunday. The influences in the first part of this day contrive to give strength and buoyancy of spirit in an unusual degree; inclining more to activity than rest; pupils efforts are likely to be energetic and aggressive rather than sound or logical; the afternoon gives unusual appreciation of the beautiful in life.

28-Monday. Arise early; do important correspondence and press business to the utmost during the forenoon; but as the day advances, baffling conditions arise; do not expect much satisfaction from dramatic, musical or social entertainments in the evening.

29-Tuesday. Seek favor from thine employer in the early morning; do not deal with mechanics or manufacturers in the afternoon; but press all mental efforts and literary work or engagements in the evening, when also give attention to accounts, mathematical work and scientific studies.

30-Wednesday. Use the forenoon for commercial undertakings not concerned with patented goods or trade marks; do not seek any advancement in thine employment nor expect favor from thy superior.

31-Thursday. Give preference to this day for the pursuit of the ingenious and mechanical trades and for dealings with glass-workers, iron and brass founders, bakers, butchers, military men, chemists, druggists, and the manufacturing interests; have no money transactions in the early forenoon when money losses are more likely; do not concern thyself about real estate or mining interests in the late hours of the day.

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Men, Women and Things.

CONDUCTED BY JENNIE MELVENE DAVIS.



The lands where "the dawn comes up like thunder out o' China 'cross the bay" do not seem so far away since the "Eastern question" began to be important to Americans. The Ameer of Afghanistan has written his autobiography with a frankness and detail that seem amazing to Westerners. This self-satisfied autocrat has a small army of attendants with him from the time he wakes until he sleeps. In a room near him are professional chess players, a story teller and a reader of books, with a few personal companions, all and each ready to be summoned to amuse his royal highness. The Ameer is progressive and anxious for the welfare of his people but confesses that the constant petty quarrels and intrigues of the court make him long for a quiet existence. His highness seems to be afflicted with the American hurry for he complains that his life is a constant round of work and that he is so busy that he has to ask his courtiers whether or no he has eaten his dinner. He retires at five or six in the morning and rises at two in the afternoon. The intervening time is not unbroken rest for the Ameer complains that he wakes every hour to worry over his country. The most casual reader of the autobiography must be impressed by the naive delight which the monarch shows in the fact that he leads a strenuous life. He gravely asserts that none of his countrymen have one tenth of his work to do. To read his detail of daily duty is a liberal education to anyone who imagines that the life of an Eastern ruler is one long luxurious revel. The Ameer states that in 1891 he delegated the public receptions to his son and left for himself these daily duties: foreign office, intelligence department, political work, treasury, criminals accused of high treason, appeals from the courts, making new courts, amending the law of the land and introducing reforms, buying material for the workshops, and regulating the household affairs of his own harem and also of his entire court. The Ameer's wives, children and grandchildren are granted a liberal allowance from the English Government. Their dresses which the Ameer states "are many and of both Oriental and European style" are not paid for from this allowance. Religious toleration prevails in the land. The Ameer is a Sunni Muslim, but many of the highest office holders are Hindoos and Shias. The court entertainments are simple and the poor Eastern follower of the strenuous life declares that even there he is working all the time. In the evenings he watches the professional chess and backgammon players, or listens occasionally to music. He declares that he loves music and can himself play the violin and rubab while the best pianos, guitars, bagpipes and other musical instruments are to be found in the palace. All in all the Ameer is a most entertaining writer for his frank and innocent egotism spares no little personal item of daily life.

Mark Twain has returned to America after a five years' lecturing tour around the world. His manager, Major Pond, offered him \$10,000 to deliver ten lectures in America after his return, but Twain refused the offer stating with characteristic humor that talking for money was work and that took the fun out of it. The varied experiences of sixty years have culminated in the honest heroism of the effort that has resulted in the cancelling of \$80,000 of indebtedness in four years. When Mark Twain started on his lecturing tour he assumed the entire indebtedness of the publishing firm of C. L. Webster and Co., of which he was a member. He gave his first lecture during the summer of 1895 in Cleveland. Over 3000 people packed the Music Hall of that city to give him welcome and good luck on the journey. He began the globe circling ill, depressed, with fortune gone and a burden of indebtedness that would have staggered many a younger man. In Cape Town he stood upon a lecture platform for what he stated was the last time.

In October he sailed into the harbor of New York on the Minnehaha which he stated was loaded with his baggage. He will spend the winter in New York. His last books now promise to give him a good income and the most popular of American writers can spend his time in peace and comfort. The story of Twain's life has as much of the element of romance as any fiction ever written. It is typically American. His boyhood spent as a printer's apprentice in a little Missouri river town, his gradual rise to a river pilot with the familiar cry of "mark twain." Little did he dream that the measuring cry was to be assumed by him as a name, and a name to be famous around the world. Few people ever think of Mr. S. L. Clemens but Mark Twain is a world-known name. His books are read where ever the language is and their writer is welcome alike in the mining camps of the West and the courts of Europe. Those who know him best say that tenderness and sensitiveness are his most prominent traits, but at the same time he has the fierce spirit of retaliation that seems born of the experience of his frontier life.

Sir Thomas Lipton is literally a household word in America for his great tea estates in Ceylon with their product are familiar to many who have little interest in Lipton the yachtsman. The second challenge from him for America's Cup was not unexpected. His gallant attempt to win the precious trophy with the Shamrock was of international as well as sporting interest. He carried home the good wishes of Americans although he failed to "lift the cup." His American admirers presented him with a beautiful gold loving cup but this flattering token of esteem was a fresh encouragement for Sir Thomas to attempt to get the battered silver trophy that America has defended so long. Sir Thomas was born in Glasgow, of Irish parents, as his naming of the Shamrock shows. He began life in a humble way but has risen to an immense fortune which he persists in enjoying alone. He has asked that the races be sailed in August so that expectation and anticipation of a victory for an American yacht have a long time to gather strength.

The Japanese Legation is always a center of interest at the capital. It is an entertaining combination of Oriental magnificence and Eastern hospitality conformed to modern European manners. The ladies of the Legation now wear European dress as all the higher classes in Japan are learning to do. Many amusing incidents develop during the assimilation of American customs. The wife of a former Japanese Minister when asked her husband's favorite sport replied, "My husband he like to flirt best of all things in the world. He think this American sport most adorable. We flirt and flirt all the day long. I flirt with him, he flirt with me." It is only forty years since the first Japanese legation was established in this country. Japan has sent to the United States a high class of representatives. In capacity and intelligence they are second to the statesmen of no nation. The new minister Mr. Takahira has had a long diplomatic experience. He has represented his country at The Hague, in Rome, Vienna and in China. Madame Takahira is a fine type of the advanced aristocratic class of Japan. This is not her first visit to America as her husband was Consul-General in New York in 1891. Mme. Takahira was educated at one of the best schools of Japan which was conducted after the Western fashion. She was married in 1887 and has accompanied her husband on his foreign missions. This contact with the official and social life of different European capitals has given Mme. Takahira the polish and ease of the true cosmopolite. Even by European standards Mme. Takahira would be ranked as a handsome woman. She has the soft dusky complexion for which Japanese women are famous, large dark expressive eyes and heavy dark hair. Her face is very mobile and its chief charm lies in the constant play of varied expression that accompanies her conver-



sation. She has magnificent jewels and dresses in exquisite taste. Her three children are in Japan and for the present will not be brought to America.

One of the most prominent figures in the great coal strike was the woman who became known as Mother Jones. She led the marches of the strikers and these demonstrations brought many recruits to the army of strikers. Mother Jones showed all the skill and tact of a general at many trying moments during the great strike. She argued, used diplomacy, ridicule and eloquence and kept the spirits of the men bright. With it all she took the position she had won seriously and it is said that the president of the strikers—Mr. Mitchell—relied to a great extent on the advice of Mother Jones.



Wu Chao-chu is the son of Wu Ting Fang the Chinese minister to this country. To all appearance he is an every-day boy in his love of sport. He plays with the boys around the Chinese legation and jokes, plays pranks and games and conducts himself like the most democratic of Americans. He wears the Chinese dress with the exception of a pair of stout American shoes. Minister Wu came to America three years ago when Wu Chao-chu was eleven years old. The son was placed in that most American of public institutions—the public school. The little lad was born and bred in the restraint of the Chinese Empire but he possesses a "get there" quality which we are apt to consider purely American. He was handicapped by a strange language and was in unfamiliar surroundings, but in spite of this he completed a four years course in three years and was able to enter a Washington High School in September. Wu Junior has none of the passive stolidity that marks the Oriental. On the contrary he has a genuine spirit of humor and love of fun. He rides to and from school on his wheel and is very much interested in running his father's automobile. He spent last summer at Cape May where he learned to swim. The father and son are great chums and Minister Wu seems to enjoy his son's progress and assimilation of Western ideas, customs and manners. Nevertheless it is contact like this that has formed a liberal and advanced party in China and contributed towards the present crisis.

Mlle. Nouailher of Limoges, France, is a party to a very peculiar law suit now being decided in the highest court of France—the State Council. The young woman is immensely wealthy, owning a large portion of the real estate of Limoges. She conceived the idea that her mission in life was to make others happy. She lived in an immense villa in the heart of Limoges. To this home she brought hundreds of patients who were pronounced incurable and were in the last stages of consumption. The wards of the Paris hospitals were emptied into this beautiful country home. Mlle. Nouailher had no hope of restoring these people to health but extended her hospitality only to those who were dying. In less than four years Mlle. Nouailher's guests had filled 2000 graves in the Limoges cemetery. The disease began to get a hold in the town and tourists avoided the place as the trains entering the station were filled with people in the last stages of consumption. Protests were made, finally mobs gathered and riots became frequent. Mlle. Nouailher stuck to her purpose and demanded the protection of the government. The case went into court and is now to be decided in the highest one.

Count Leo Tolstoy is the most remarkable figure of the day in the literary world. His recent communication by the Greek church is an event that has long been expected by those familiar with the daring of the religious views expressed in his novels. Purely and simply as a novelist judged from the standpoint of literary and artistic merit Tolstoy has few equals. His novels considered as photo-



graphic studies of human life and of Russian customs and ideas are fascinating. It is the peculiar ideas of the great Russian that have made the civilized world discuss and accept or reject him. A Russian noble belonging to the privileged classes, he chooses to live in a simplicity that means only the barest necessities of life. He believes that each man should earn his living with his own hands. His ancestral lands have been given to the peasants. Tolstoy is a firm believer in the command "Thou shalt do no murder." In a recent article he declared that the murder of monarchs was but the fulfillment of the Bible prophecy "They that shall take the life shall perish by the sword." In the same article he commented most bitterly upon William of Germany and Czar Nicholas. He declared that the Czar's Peace Conference was a childish, silly and untruthful project as he was ordering an increase of the army at the same time. For much less severe criticism men have been exiled to Siberia. It is his passionate protest against society as now constituted that makes Tolstoy the unique figure that he is. He is terribly, passionately, tragically in earnest and at odds with existing forms. His novels are tracts. It is remarkable that they are such finished pieces of literary work when their evident purpose is protest and reform.

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